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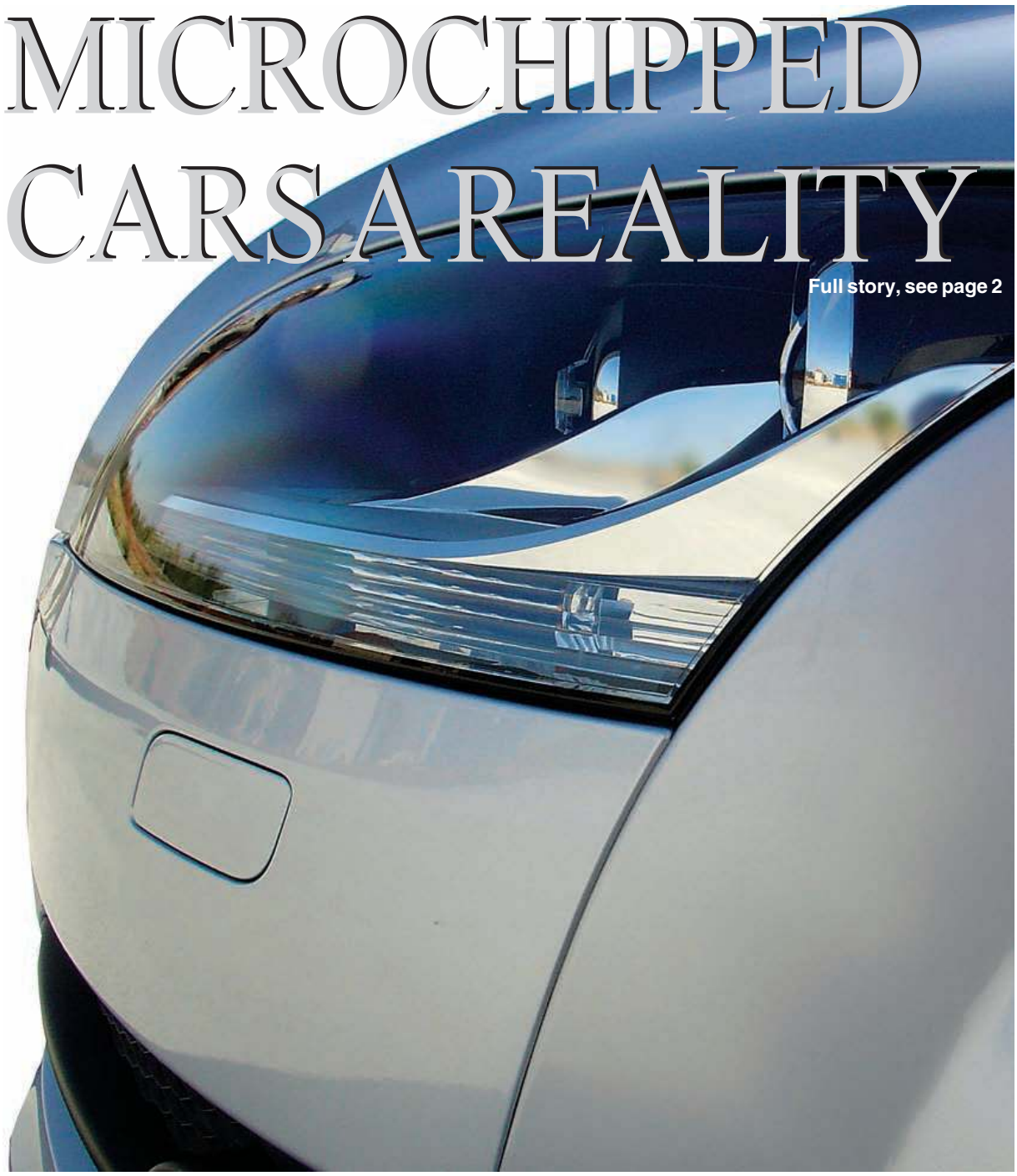
P. 23

Government accused of creating a Big Brother state by making vehicle micro-chipping compulsory

MICROCHIPPED CARS A REALITY

Full story, see page 2



Algarve becomes pilot region for pioneering safety project

The Algarve is to become a test-region for a new safety programme being created that incorporates a GPS security system, CCTV cameras and a central alarm. (See Page 5)

Life in Lisbon is better than Rome or New York

The quality of life citizens enjoy in Portugal's capital city of Lisbon is the 45th highest in the world, beating the quality of living in cosmopolitan cities such as Rome or New York. (See Page 7)

Amidst crisis, nation gives generously to national food drive

Even though belts have been tightened all-round, and for quite some time now, when it comes to giving the Portuguese nation has surpassed previous donations and in total gave the National Food Bank a whopping 2,006 tons of food, which will be distributed amongst the needy. (See Page 10)

Olympic hopeful opens up

Ranked 24th in the world, Portuguese champion swimmer Alexandre Agostinho speaks to The Portugal News about his hopes and dreams for the 2012 London Olympics. (See Page 21)

Portugal back on form

With Portugal's first World Cup match against the Ivory Coast less than a fortnight away, the team bounced back from the dismal goalless draw against Cape Verde last week to record a more promising 3-1 win over Cameroon on Tuesday evening. Portugal's final preparation match is against Mozambique in South Africa. (See Page 64)

Weekend weather

Lisbon: The capital will start cooling off this weekend, with temperatures next week resembling those of late Spring and not early summer as has been the case in the recent days. **Faro:** With maximums in the region of the mid-twenties this weekend and next week, the Algarve will be slightly cooler, but maintain its summer feel in the coming days. **The North:** Oporto will be much cooler this coming week, with thermometers struggling past the 20-degree mark.

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Microchip cars a reality

Brendan de Beer

Serious privacy concerns were raised this week after it emerged that all vehicles in Portugal will have to be fitted with a microchip by July 1, 2011. The law actually comes into force at the beginning of next month, but the government has allowed a one-year transitional period paving the way for the controversial devices to be fitted on an estimated six million vehicles in Portugal. It remains unclear who will foot the bill for installing these devices, though it seems increasingly likely the cost will be borne by motorists.

The ground-breaking legislation was passed last year when the government still had a parliamentary majority, and despite opposition from all political colours, it is set to come into force in a few weeks.

The government has this week moved to appease citizens who say their liberties will be infringed by the microchips, which will be fitted on licence plates.

"The technology chosen is short-range, in other words, information can only be read in close proximity to the vehicle", the Ministry of Transport said in response to privacy concerns.

The actual legislation was passed last year amidst reservations expressed by the Commission for Data Protection and the president.

In a statement, President Cavaco Silva said the law touches a "very delicate area regarding the safeguarding of citizens' private lives" and pointed out that the technology must only be used for purposes connected to road traffic control and that the registered data must be duly protected.

At the time of passing the legislation, the government explained the chip will only be used to ease the workload for safety forces, permitting them to access information on inspections and car insurance details. The chip will also allow the quicker identification of abandoned vehicles and ones that have been in accidents, as well as being used to pay tolls and other road fees.

But this week, the government has said its main priority is to have the microchip operational as soon as possible in order to facilitate the charging of tolls on previous toll-free motorways in northern Portugal, and possibly the A22 motorway in the Algarve.

All new motorways will also use this technology.

"Cars using these motorways will need to be fitted with the device", said Transport State Secretary, Paulo Campos.

He explained during a visit to the north of the country earlier in the week that the chip is "technologically complex and the system will have to be tested to ensure it works hitch-free, especially when it comes to payments".

But the finer operational details remain a mystery.

"All will be explained in due course in order to allow Portuguese to calmly adapt to the system", said Mr Campos.

However, it is believed that motorists can make toll payments by either depositing a prepaid amount into their vehicle account at a pay point or via an ATM, while payments invoiced at a later date will be charged a premium due to administrative costs.

Opposition to the system has been swift and was this week led by the Communist Party (PCP) as it tabled a law decree proposal removing the compulsory element of the licence plate chip.

According to Communist MP António Filipe, the measure is "completely disproportionate to the objectives of its intended use and citizens should be allowed to choose whether or not they want a chip installed on their vehicle".

"By demanding the fitting of the chip, the government is committing a serious infringement of citizens' fundamental liberties", the MP added.

The PSD and Left Bloc have both also tabled similar law reform proposals.

"Once in place, it [the chip] will allow for the creation of a 'Big Brother' on our roads and, as a result, will become a serious invasion of the privacy of motorists", Miguel Macedo of the PSD said.

But the government is certain to stick to its guns on this law, especially with the pending launch of a European Electronic Toll Service (EETS), enabling road users to pay tolls throughout the whole EU.

EETS will be available on all infrastructures in the EU such as motorways, tunnels and bridges where tolls can be paid using on-board equipment.

EETS will eventually reduce cash transactions at toll stations, thereby improving traffic flow and reducing congestion.

The European Commission considers this decision to be the most important improvement for drivers since the abolition of border controls, stating that "the European Electronic Toll Service will enable road users to easily pay tolls throughout the whole European Union thanks to one subscription contract with one service provider and one single on-board unit".

Electronic toll systems were introduced in several European countries in the early 1990s, Portugal being amongst the pioneers with its highly acclaimed 'Via Verde' system.

EETS is expected to be available within two years for all road vehicles above 3.5 tonnes or allowed to carry more than nine passengers, including the driver. It will be available for all other vehicles within four years.

MPs refute looming Algarve A22 road tolls

Several MPs from various political parties elected in the Algarve have voiced their unity against the introduction of tolls on the region's main Via do Infante/A22 road.

Despite the Government claiming that tolls would not be introduced 'for now', MPs from the PSD, CDS, PS and BE parties have protested against any possible charges.

In a press release the PSD/Algarve District Party said it thought it was "worrying" that the government intends to "create a foundation for the supposed inevitable introduction of tolls on the Via do Infante (A22), whether under the pretext of being yet another anti-crisis measure, or whether bringing to an end the allegation that the Algarve benefits from a motorway without paying tolls".

PSD MP Mendes Bota told Lusa New Agency the government should "respect its pledged commitment, based on technical criteria, to transform the EN-125 into a credible alternative to the Via do Infante, a situation that is far from being achieved because of the suspension of works".

In his opinion, Mendes Bota believes the introduction of tolls on the Via do Infante will have a "paralysing effect on the Algarve, with congestion on the En 125 (upgraded or not), as today it is little more than an urban parking space, an everyday street laden with residential and economic activities".

"We will be against the introduction of tolls on the Via do Infante for as long as there is no viable alternative", said CDS MP Artur Rêgo.

PS MP for the Algarve, Miguel Freitas, also confirmed he was not in favour of the measure.

"We believe there are specifications in each region and that objective conditions must be created", he said, referring to the upgrading of the EN 125 as well as the implementation of a new public transport network via the creation of a regional transport authority.

Leftist party BE (Bloco de Esquerda) said the introduction of tolls would represent a serious "loss for the Algarve, negatively affecting all of its populations and regional economies, which are already suffering a profound crisis".

A source from the Ministry of Public Works told Lusa that no specific agenda has yet been confirmed for the introduction of tolls anywhere else in the country with the exception of the north.

According to the Ministry of Public Works' webpage, around 30 people are killed every year on the EN-125, a 153-kilometre long road that traverses the entire Algarve region, from Sagres to Vila Real de Santo António and is considered to be the second deadliest road in the country.

The A22 is a 129-kilometre, four-lane motorway that runs parallel to the EN-125, from the Portuguese border with Spain to Lagos.

Portugal's Expo 2010 pavilion sets new record

The Portuguese pavilion at Shanghai's Expo 2010 set a new one-day record for visitors, drawing more than 23,000 people.

Rolando Borges Martins told Lusa News Agency the record was set last Wednesday, on a day that Expo 2010 drew six million people and Portugal's cork-lined pavilion counted 400,000 visitors.

The growing crowds, Borges Martins added, boded well for the exposition's Portugal Day on June 6 that will feature fado diva Mariza.

A mix of the old and the new, the 2,000-square-metre pavilion showcases Portugal's five-century-old relationship with China, and its cutting-edge renewable energies technology. *TPN/Lusa*

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Thousands of workers gather to demonstrate against the new tax policy during a rally organised by the left wing union CGTP-IN, in Lisbon on May 29th. (Photo: Lusa / Mário Cruz)

Hundreds of thousands protest against the government

A demonstration called by Portugal's largest trade union attracted an estimated 300,000 protestors this past weekend in Lisbon.

The action was called by the CGTP union who said "more than 300,000 people" crammed the Portuguese capital's streets to protest against the government's sweeping austerity measures.

Contrary to what has become common practice, police declined to give an estimate of the crowd.

CGTP leader Carvalho da Silva, while confirming the union had not yet set any dates for nationwide industrial action, he did admit they were contemplating calling a general strike.

"Our aim is to adopt all forms of struggle enshrined in the constitution and will we not exclude anything", said Carvalho da Silva.

The CGTP announced the demonstration in Lisbon to be "the largest ever", surpassing the 200,000-strong crowd assembled in 2009.

The CGTP had arranged the demonstration under the slogan "Against unemployment, in defence of workers' rights and better wages for all".

"Saturday's turnout may impact our future decisions", Carvalho da Silva said in comments to Lusa News Agency before the protest march.

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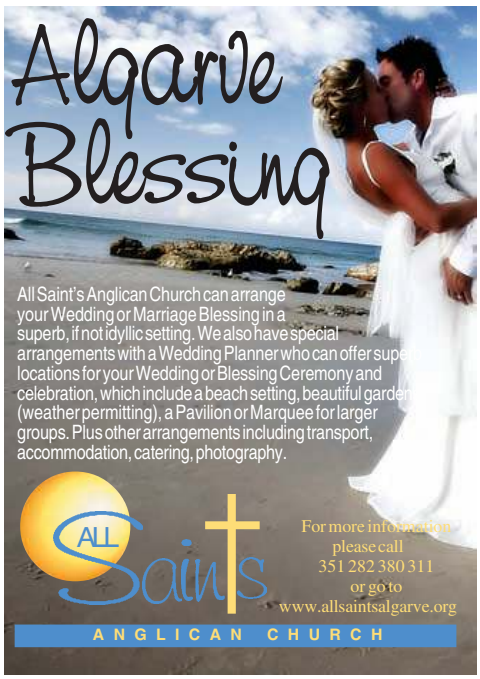

Tourism profits up, says State Secretary

Tourism-generated revenue from the first quarter of 2010 was up by 6.3 percent in comparison to the same period of 2009, the State secretary for Tourism, Bernardo Trindade, announced this week in Tróia.

In terms of accumulated value, tourism revenue from between January and March this year experienced a growth of 6.3 percent in relation to the same period for 2009, which is notable", he said.

Bernardo Trindade continued "And on that particular note I would like to highlight the Alentejo region for 2009, when the majority of the country's tourist destinations showed falling results, the Alentejo was the only region that showed positive results".

"Portugal is today a stronger, more competitive tourist destination, which is reflected in the good results for this year", he added, praising the work that has been developed in the Alentejo. Secretary Trindade claimed these outcomes are "surely the result of the competent efforts with which local agents have achieved their objectives and highlighted the region, as well as the capabilities of promoters to act as necessary".

Carlos Beato, President of the Alentejo Coastal Tourism Board, as well as Mayor of Grândola, stressed the importance of greater swiftness with which projects in recent years had been carried out, and reiterated that some €400 million has been invested in tourism projects along the Alentejo coastline.

He further underlined the need for more investment in the conference sector, as well as sports, golf, and sailing.

Gay marriage will promote "fairer society" – PM

A bill allowing gay marriage in Portugal became law on Monday, an event welcomed by Portuguese Prime Minister José Sócrates as a "step towards a fairer society".

The bill was approved by parliament in February by a coalition of left wing parties, and grudgingly signed by President Aníbal Cavaco Silva on May 17; it came into law this past Monday.

Prime Minister Sócrates celebrated the law's enactment at a lunch with members of the LGBT community.

"It's a humanist law", an "historical step", he said. "It will be an important law not only to put an end to discrimination but also to, finally, give more happiness to people who needed such happiness."

Mr. Sócrates also aimed criticism at Cavaco Silva, who disagrees with the law but signed it anyway, believing the nation should focus on its current financial crisis: "I know the country has other problems and we are committed to solving them, but I see no reason why we can't find a way to do what's right."

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Algarve becomes pilot region for pioneering safety project

Carrie-Marie Bratley

The Algarve is to play test-region to a new safety programme being created that incorporates a GPS security system, CCTV cameras and a central alarm.

Once implemented the 'geo-referencing' system will be able to take automatic readings of fake licence plates on vehicles, as well as detecting stolen vehicles.

It is a pioneering safety initiative being developed by the Government to reinforce security in key regions.

The pilot project is expected to commence as of July.

"We promised to launch the project in the Algarve, which is innovative in terms of safety, bringing the police closer to the people and involving the community, because it is a region that poses special security problems", Portugal's Minister for Internal Affairs said this week in Faro.

The project will involve 225 GNR and PSP vehicles, which will be permanently linked via geo-reference, so each vehicle knows the whereabouts of the others and can respond more quickly to any problem or criminal occurrence.

The number of CCTV cameras in the region will be increased and more placed in strategic areas, while the security forces will be connected to private security firm alarm systems.

Minister Pereira stressed that the 'Safe Algarve' project was only possible with the cooperation of Faro Civil Government, local Town Halls, the security forces both private and public, as well as foreign diplomatic bodies.

In recent months, crime in the Algarve has become an international concern following numerous domestic robberies targeting mostly middle-aged to elderly couples living in isolated areas, and in which the amount of violence has reached unprecedented levels, with criminals no longer waiting to swoop on houses when their occupants are out.

Rui Pereira, the Minister for Internal Affairs, during a ceremony to deliver new police vehicles to the GNR and PSP in Lisbon on May 18th. (Photo: Lusa / Mário Cruz)

Over the past few years the number of violent crimes being carried out on foreign homes, particularly in the 'Golden Triangle', has soared.

The first and most serious robbery to date took place in Sobradinho, Loulé, in April 2005.

In an attack of extreme violence that shook the Algarve, expats John and Helen Turner suffered a nightmare ordeal carried out by four Romanians on their idyllic Loulé hilltop property in Sobradinho do Alfeição. While his wife managed to escape, Mr. Turner died during the ordeal in which both he and his wife were brutally assaulted.

The four men gained access to the British couple's villa by forcing entrance with a crowbar through a back door

At the time police were evasive in confirming details of the burglary or the manner in which the man's death occurred, but in comments to **The Portugal News** back then neighbours claimed crime levels in the Loulé region had reached such an extent they were living in a constant "state of terror and fear".

In January this year another attack was carried out on a foreigner's home in Sobradinho pushed the level of aggression to new heights after a family of four, including children, were targeted at dinner time.

The two children, aged 12 and 13, were involved in what was the seventh violent robbery on a private home in five months.

Last year several savage attacks on foreign home-owners made national headlines, compounding what has been a bleak few years for personal safety in the Algarve.

In September and October alone three incidents of extreme brutality took place, one involving an elderly Swiss Couple at their home, Quinta Rajan, in Almancil, in October, during which a 77-year-old woman was raped. A second incident involved four men breaking into the home of a foreign woman in Goncinha, Loulé, and threatening to cut off her fingers.

Prior to that, on September 22nd, three assailants beat, tied up and robbed a British couple in their home in Alvor.

Three of those assailants have since been arrested.

More recently, just last month, three hooded assailants broke into a British couple's home in the São Lourenço area of Almancil (Loulé) last Saturday night and raped a woman who was looking after the property at the time.

Portuguese newspaper *Jornal de Noticias* (JN) described the victim as a 34-year-old British woman.

A GNR source told Lusa News Agency that after the trio had broken into the property they threatened the house-sitter with a weapon described as 'not a firearm', and allegedly raped her.

The PJ police confirmed that they are investigating the case, but added "at this phase in the investigation no more can be revealed".

Other local residents told Lusa that they were worried about the rise in violent crime that has been particularly noticeable in that area.

A posting from a reader on **The Portugal News'** website earlier this year, in response to an article relating to violent crimes, read "I am totally disgusted and scared with all this. We have two children and every night and day live in total fear. It's terrible to be scared to be in your own garden or house at night".

According to the comment, in Sobradinho "every second house up there is for sale".

It concluded, "We asked a Portuguese local why it's like that there and he said 'would you buy a house in Iraq'?"

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'Horrific' poisonings killing dogs after walks on Salgados wetlands

Carrie-Marie Bratley

Scores of dog owners have been left devastated after their pets were poisoned and suffered horrible and painful deaths following walks on the Lagoa dos Salgados wetlands, at Pêra, Silves.

A sign on Salgados Marsh warning that dogs must be kept on a lead, though not prohibiting them from the wetlands. According to the sign, under a 2005 law, any disturbances to the birds or damage to their places of rest and breeding could be punsihed with a fine ranging between €125 and €3,750.

Local vets are now urging owners not to walk their dogs in that region fearing of more deaths. Poisoned meat was scattered around Salgados, though why, and by whom, remains a mystery.

The alarm was raised by the Guia Veterinary Clinic, who told **The Portugal News** they knew of at least 20 dogs that had died in the past month after being poisoned at Salgados.

A piece of poisoned pork meat found in the area was taken to the Guia clinic by a dog owner as evidence.

An auxiliary vet at the Guia clinic said the police had been informed and they are believed to have been to the area to "remove all the meat they could find". Nevertheless, owners are still urged not to go to the area as more deaths have occurred since the police clean-up.

The first incident was reported to the Guia clinic in early May, in this case the animal died within a short time at its home. The first poisoned dog to be taken to the clinic was admitted on May 13th, but also died shortly after arrival.

Since then the Guia clinic has tended to around 20 identical cases, the most recent having been on Tuesday this week.

"In most cases the poison takes immediate effect. It's horrible" the veterinary source explained.

Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhoea, and involuntary muscle spasms.

Such cases are almost always fatal and occur within hours, if not minutes, of the toxic meat being ingested. Most of the affected dogs did not survive the short car journey from Salgados to the Guia Veterinary Clinic. Some died in the clinic's car park on arrival, others hours later. One fighter made it through the night, but died the next day.

"In the 20-odd cases we have treated only one survived", the auxiliary said.

The Pêra Veterinary Clinic also told **The Portugal News** it is aware of the situation and confirmed one death. It said the last case it knew about occurred 15 days ago.

An owner whose two sibling Spaniel-crosses were killed by the poisoned meat and who wished to remain anonymous told **The Portugal News** "It broke our hearts".

"We've walked our dogs on Salgados for months as it's such as wonderful place", the owner explained.

"Two and a half weeks ago we took our dogs there for a walk. A short while after we arrived one of them collapsed and the other went missing".

The owner told **The Portugal News** that they initially suspected the collapsed dog was suffering a heart attack as it was "dying on the spot".

It took several family members more than five hours to find the second missing dog, which had also been poisoned and died.

"A friend of ours lost her dog and the local shepherd's three dogs were killed, now he can't work", the owner added.

Why the poisoned meat was scattered around the Salgados Lagoon is unknown; some suggest it could be a ruthless attempt to protect breeding birds from disruption caused by dogs, others think it may be a callous message to prevent dogs from being on the land which is highly popular with nature-lovers and beach-goers. It is also a popular location for horse-trekking, as well as dog-walking.

The owner argued "If people don't want dogs on Salgados why don't they just put up a sign?"

Lagoa dos Salgados is a well-known coastal lagoon and one of few wetlands on the western Algarve coast.

The site is described by the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA) and its UK counterpart the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) as "extremely important" for wild, migrating and breeding birds. These include the little bittern, purple heron, and ferruginous duck; Salgados is reportedly the only breeding site for the ferruginous duck in Portugal.

Around 150 bird species have been sighted at the location, making it popular with bird-watchers from all over the world and, subsequently, host to a unique type of nature-related tourism.

While it is largely public and non-restricted, the site is recognised by the SPEA as an Important Bird Area (IBA).

The fringes of the Lagoon are protected under Portugal's Decree-Law number 49/2005 – Article 11, which forbids the disturbance, capturing and interference of the birds and their nests, amongst other restrictions.

The Portugal News confirmed this week there are in fact several 'No Trespassing' signs erected in places around the edges of Lagoa dos Salgados, signalling a total prohibition of passage to people, vehicles and animals. Another sign shows dogs may circulate, but must be kept on a lead. Fines for offenders range between €125 and €3,740.

Major Vítor Calado, of the GNR police headquarters in Faro, told **The Portugal News** the police had been informed of three cases of poisoning; two involving dogs belonging to British citizens and one belonging to a Portuguese citizen.

He confirmed that one formal complaint had been made at the Armação de Pêra police station by a British citizen and that an investigation was ongoing.

One in ten town halls are "broke"

Town halls across Portugal managed to pile up debts amounting to over a billion euros last year, a figure which is three times higher than 2008.

It emerged this week that excessive spending by Portugal's 308 town halls last year has left around one in ten of them in a state of insolvency.

In an interview granted to *Diário Económico* this week, the state secretary for local administration said this situation has a simple explanation.

"In election years, debt increases exponentially", especially amongst small and large municipalities.

In other words, last autumn's local elections have been given the blame for the precarious state in which many of the country's towns and cities currently find themselves.

State-Secretary José Junqueiro said no political party could be singled out for excessive spending, as the town halls in question, which he declined to name, are governed by leaders from all political colours.

In 2009, Portugal's 308 town halls closed the year with a deficit in excess of a billion euros, an increase of 228 percent on 2008, the Office of National Statistics said.

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Life in Lisbon is better than Rome or New York

The quality of life citizens enjoy in Portugal's capital city of Lisbon is the 45th highest in the world, beating the quality of living in cosmopolitan cities such as Rome or New York.

Living in Lisbon is on a par with the quality of life one could expect in Washington and Chicago, according to a study by consultants Mercer.

Ranking 45th on a global 'quality of life' listing, it is wedged between the Spanish cities of Barcelona and Madrid.

Lisbon's weakest points as stressed in the study include crime, congestion and pollution, while political stability, good bank services, unrestricted freedom of speech, adequate health services and ample consumer goods were highlighted as some of the city's best aspects.

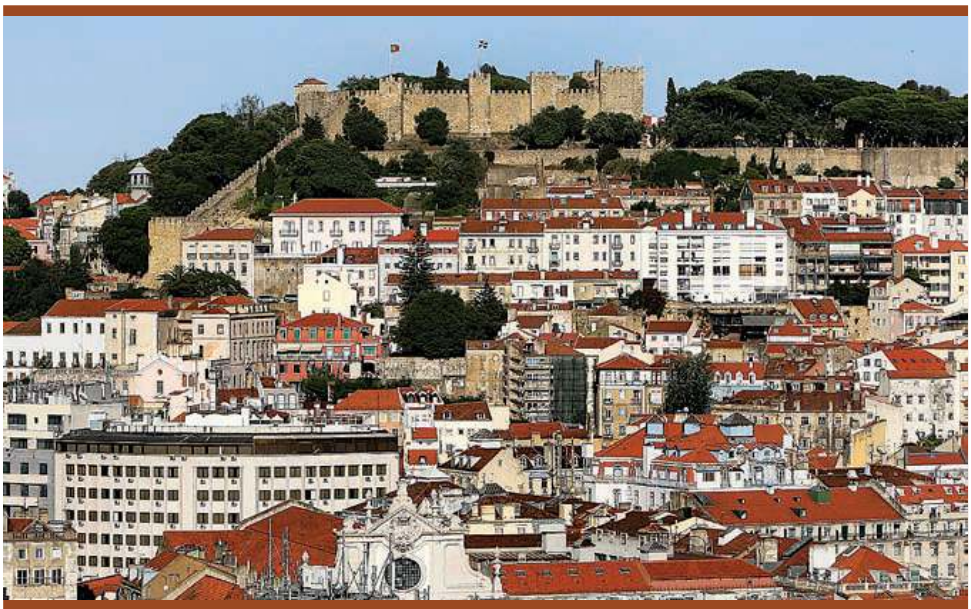
Overall, Portugal's capital ranked 45th on a list of 221 worldwide cities, evaluated for their quality of life.

The study was carried out by Mercer and made public last week.

In comparison to previous studies Lisbon has "managed to maintain an overall quality of life that is quite satisfactory" Diogo Alarcão, head of Mercer Portugal told Portuguese newspaper *Público*.

The results of the study show Lisbon offers the same level of quality of life as Washington and Chicago, and is above other metropolises such as Madrid, New York, Prague and Miami.

Last year Lisbon had ranked one position higher, at 44th, though this year's study involved more cities, a total of 221, in comparison to the 215 that were assessed in previous years.



A view of Lisbon from the S. Pedro de Alcântara gardens in July last year. (Photo: Lusa / António Cotrim)

Nevertheless, over the past three years Lisbon has managed to climb 12 places on the global ranking.

On a points system of one to 100, in comparison with other countries, Portugal's capital scored top marks regarding social and cultural matters, within which the non-existence of limitations on personal freedom and the press was stressed; electricity, water and telecommunications networks also scored highly, as did the "good" network of foreign schools in Lisbon and the ample choice of consumer goods.

Lisbon's other strong points included its bank services, its improving and growing health services (both public and private), the good year-round weather, the diversity of the real estate market, and the low risk of natural disasters.

On the opposite end of the scale, the poor diversity of recreational and leisure activities, a growing sense of insecurity, frequent congestion and road accidents, the quality of airport services and pollution were what held Lisbon back from climbing even further.

Vienna, Austria, takes Mercer's 'Quality of Life' top-spot, followed by the Swiss cities of Zurich and Geneva.

There are 16 other European cities amongst the top-25 spots; Canadian cities fill four places, Australia three, and there are two New Zealand cities amongst the top-25 that offer the best quality of living in the world.

Within the USA, the Hawaiian city of Honolulu scores highest, with Singapore faring best in Asia.

Regarding countries of Portuguese language, all other cities rank considerably lower than Lisbon, with Brasília, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo taking 104th, 116th and 117th place respectively; Mozambique's capital Maputo ranks 185th with the Angolan capital Luanda taking 198th place.

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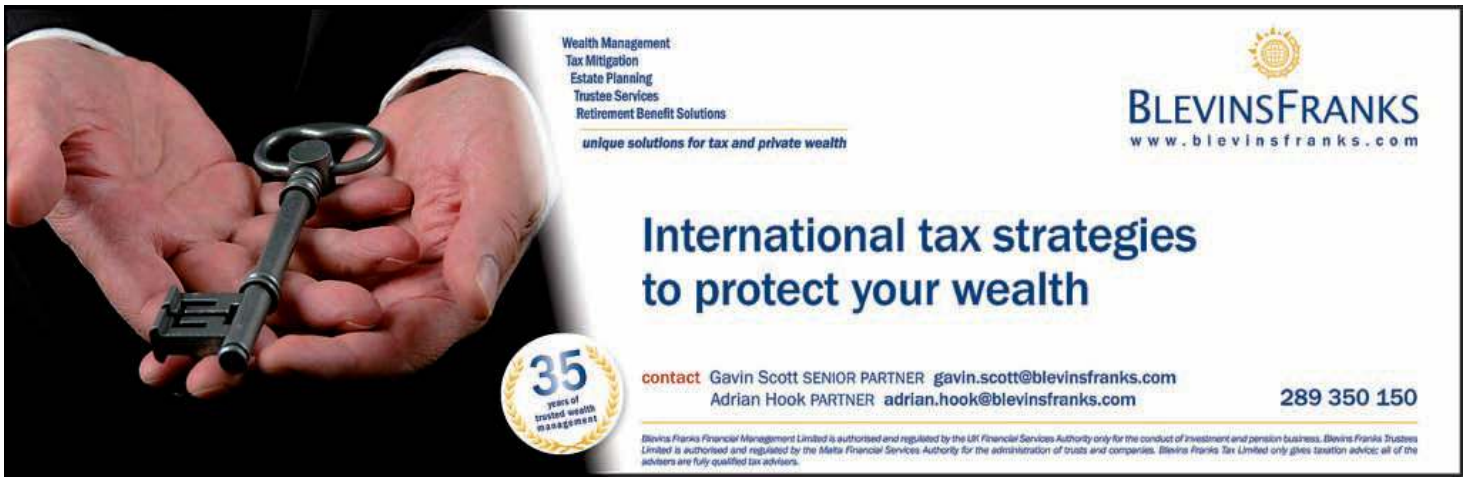

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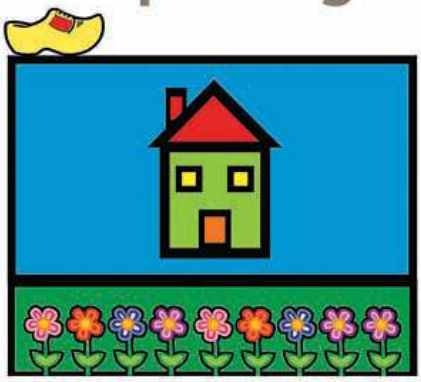

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Portugal calls for greater input in Korea, Mid-East crises

Police clash with protesters during a demonstration in Paris on May 31, against Israel's deadly raid on an aid flotilla bound for the Gaza Strip. France's President Nicolas Sarkozy accused Israel of a 'disproportionate use of force' after Israeli naval forces stormed six ships bound for besieged Gaza with thousands of tonnes of aid and hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists aboard. (Photo: EPA/Lucas Dolega)

Simmering tensions between North and South Korea are "very worrying" and the UN must "look at the issue", Portuguese Foreign Minister Luís Amado said recently.

"The potential for instability in the [Korean] peninsula is huge, and irrationality has appeared occasionally in a few reckless actions", Minister Amado told Lusa News Agency in Madrid. "The United Nations must look at the issue. And I'm sure the major players in the region will have options", he added.

The most recent clash between the two Koreas came a fortnight ago, when an international inquiry determined that the sinking of a South Korean vessel in late March was caused by a North Korean torpedo. The ship's crew of 46 was killed.

Amado told Lusa that "the UN secretary [Ban Ki-moon] himself" confirmed to him that North Korea was to blame for the incident.

Meanwhile the Foreign Minister has also said that the European Union and the United States must "urgently focus" on solving the Palestinian crisis in order to make progress in other Middle Eastern issues.

"That is one of the major concerns and it is very difficult to stabilise the situation in the [Middle East] region without first solving the Palestinian problem", Amado told Lusa.

"We lack a plan that the international community can use as a starting point for negotiations", Amado added. "Hopefully, the American administration, which is committed to this process, can present such a plan by the year's end, since time is running out to find a solution for the conflict" between Israel and the Palestinians.

The Minister's comments were made only hours before the deadly Israeli attack against a humanitarian aid flotilla headed for Gaza. Portugal immediately condemned the commando operation and called for an "impartial inquiry".

"The Portuguese government profoundly laments the loss of human lives, condemns the excessive use of force against civilian targets, and appeals for the rapid opening of an impartial inquiry to determine responsibilities", the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Lisbon reiterated its concern for the humanitarian situation in Israeli-blockaded Gaza and called for the "full application" of UN Resolution 1860 defending humanitarian help for the territory.

According to unofficial reports at least 19 civilians were killed and 26 wounded in the Israeli commando raid. *TPN/Lusa*

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Stricter rules to combat illicit weapon trafficking

The European Commission has this week proposed legislation to combat illicit arms trafficking through improved tracing and control of imports and exports of civilian firearms to and from the EU territory.

The adoption of the proposal by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU would bring the European Union legislation in line with Article 10 of the UN Firearms Protocol.

"Combating illicit trafficking of firearms is crucial in our fight against organised crime. That is why the Commission proposed today to give EU law enforcement authorities better tools to track movement of firearms coming to and leaving the EU", said EU Commissioner for Home Affairs Cecilia Malmström.

The proposal is based on the principle that firearms and related items should not be transferred between states without the knowledge and consent of all States involved. Firearms should not be exported to or allowed transit through countries that have not authorised the transfer.

The proposed regulation applies only to firearms, their parts and essential components and ammunition for civilian use: firearms intended for military purposes are not involved.

Moreover it only addresses trade and transfers with countries outside the EU; transfer of firearms within the Union is regulated by other EU laws.

Exports of firearms will be subject to export authorisations, containing the necessary information for tracing them, including the country of origin, the country of export, the consignee, the final recipient and a description of the quantity of the firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.

Member states have the obligation to verify that the importing third country has issued the relevant import authorisation. Member states must refuse to grant an export authorisation if the person applying has any previous record concerning illicit trafficking or other serious crime.

In order to avoid unnecessary administrative burdens, simplified procedures will apply for the temporary export of firearms for verifiable lawful purposes which include hunting, sport shooting, evaluation, exhibitions and repair.

Hundreds of schools to be closed in September

As of September, the beginning of a new school year, around 500 primary school with fewer than 20 pupils will gradually close down as part of a Governmental school network reorganising plan.

The provisional figures were announced this week by the State Secretary for Education, João Mata, following a Parliamentary hearing, during which the key rules for the school network reshuffle were approved.

"Initially, around 55 schools will not open this September", João Mata told journalists, stressing that the definite numbers would be confirmed on June 15th.

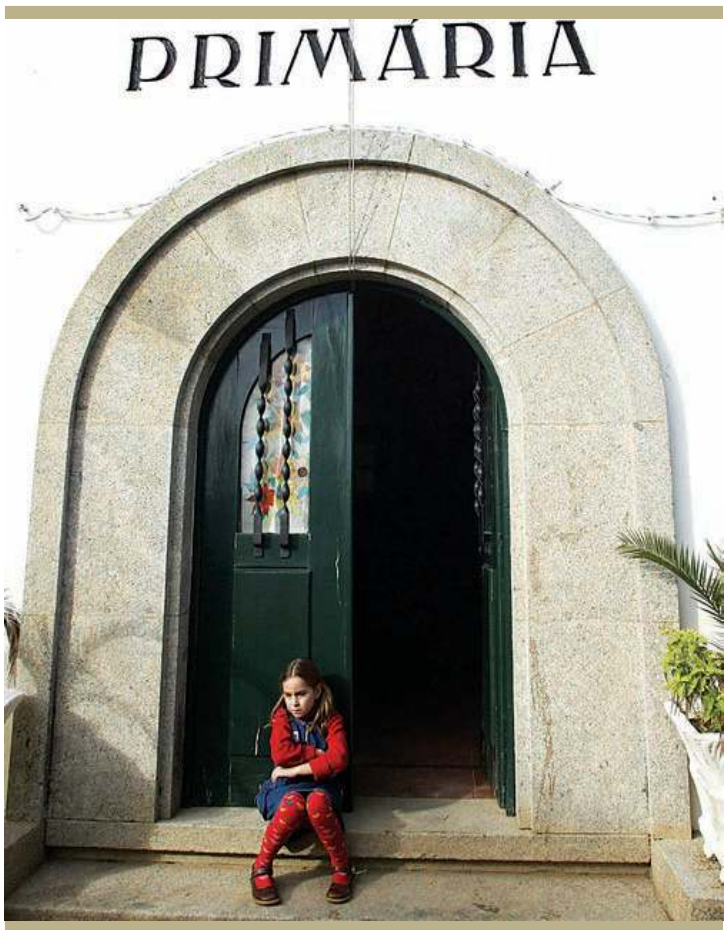
"The closure of schools with fewer than 20 pupils is a principle that must be applied on the ground. Close work is being done with local Town Halls and school groups", he said, explaining that the outcome of the Parliamentary meeting was that only schools without minimum conditions would be shut down.

João Mata guaranteed that "pupils will only be disrupted if they can be sent to schools with better teaching and learning conditions to guarantee equality and opportunities".

Other conditions that the Government determines as essential for a school remaining open are the existence of a "canteen, IT rooms, and rooms for teaching English and music".

In total there are currently 3,200 primary schools, of which 600 have less than 20 pupils.

In present-day Portugal there are some 470,000 children currently in primary school. It is estimated that this measure will affect some 10,000 primary-school students.



A pupil at the Redondo primary school waits for her mother to collect her after a strike closed the school. (Photo: Lusa / Nuno Veiga)

Water legalisation deadline extended

Carrie-Marie Bratley

Following the shock implementation of a poorly-publicised law change in April 2008, the registration and subsequent legalisation of private water resources such as boreholes, wells, lakes and streams in the Algarve has been extended for another seven months and can now be submitted until December 15th.

The original deadline to register water sources was May 31st this year. On-line registration was introduced in January this year to help speed up the process. An extension of the deadline was confirmed last week following a parliamentary hearing and registration can now be done until the end of the year.

Chaos broke out when the law change was first stumbled upon last year, despite at the time already being over one year old, due to the impending deadlines and huge fines it imposed.

Poor information regarding the procedure was offered to both Portuguese and foreign residents in the region, and there seemed to be a lack of communication between Town Halls and the Regional Water Board (ARH) as to how the procedure should be instigated.

The imminent law change was initially brought to The Portugal News' attention after it was discovered by a foreign resident in Alferce, Monchique, who had heard about the rumoured shift from a farmer neighbour; seemingly supported by a notification in the local post office.

Panic grew as owners of land with water resources desperately tried to obtain more information on how to legalise them and avoid fines, then set at between €25,000 and €2.5 million.

Following the mass response, municipal services were overrun with enquiries and applications, the deadline eventually being extended by one year and the online application via the ARH/Algarve's website being introduced in January.

According to the ARH/Algarve the objective of last year's law change is to be able to map existing water recipients in the region, to provide better management, as many local authorities are unaware of boreholes and other water-providing systems located on municipal terrain, both private and otherwise.

This applies to pre-existing or previously registered/legalised (before 2008) systems created for both domestic and agricultural use, including boreholes, ponds, wells, streams, lakes, etc. People looking to obtain licenses for newly or recently installed equipment should contact the ARH/Algarve directly.

Those re-registering pre-existing water resources should be aware that various types of documents, including maps (available via 'Google Earth'), identification documents and information, are required for online registration.

In April 2009 the situation reached fever pitch after the May 31st deadline for the little-known, then year-old law emerged. The law stipulated anyone who had a private water supply must officially register it before May 31st 2009 or face a minimum €25,000 fine.

At the time it was verified the majority of the regional population had no idea this law actually existed and any information that was available from local authorities or websites was all in Portuguese.

It was later confirmed that changes to compulsory registration of water equipment (Decree-Law number 226A/2007) were made public on March 31st 2007 and stipulated May 31st 2009 as the deadline for all registrations.

The ARH has warned that usage of non-legalised water resources is a serious criminal offence and entails significant penalties.

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Amidst crisis, nation gives generously to national food drive

Even though belts have been tightened all-round and for quite some time now, when it comes to giving the Portuguese nation has surpassed previous donations and in total gave the National Food Bank a whopping 2,006 tons of food, which will be distributed amongst the needy.

Collection points were organised in shopping centres in Abrantes, Algarve, Aveiro, Braga, Coimbra, Cova da Beira, Évora e Beja, Leiria-Fátima, Lisbon, Portalegre, Porto, Santarém, Setúbal, S. Miguel, Viana do Castelo and Viseu, amongst others.

In comparison to the amount collected in May last year, when 1,931 tons of food was donated, this year's drive enjoyed a 3.9 percent rise in offerings.

According to the National Food Bank, this year's figures represent an "evident and extraordinary adhesion despite the profound economic crisis, confirming not only [the nation's] traditional generosity and solidarity, but also the trust that is placed in the Food Bank Against Hunger's project, as a faithful distributor and guarantor of a fair distribution of the contributions to the neediest".

'However small your contribution, your help is enormous', was the phrase used in the campaign and the results proved so.

Some 28,000 volunteers gave up part of their time last weekend to participate in the drive, which included standing around in supermarkets, collecting food and goods, as well as transporting, separating and grouping food stuffs.

The food will be distributed amongst some 1,700 Social Welfare Institutions, and will eventually reach some 275,000 needy people, the majority of whom live on the verge of poverty and hunger.

It was the biggest volunteering action ever to be carried out in Portugal.

A shopper gives a bag full of food to contribute towards the Food Bank during a drive which took place throughout the country last weekend. (Photo: Lusa / Miguel A. Lopes)

Throughout the rest of this week, until June 6th, it will still be possible to make donations to the country's various Food Bank depots via an 'Aid Voucher' programme, available in all Pingo Doce, Feira Nova, Dia, Minipreço, El Corte Inglês, Jumbo, Pão de Açúcar, Lidl, Modelo and Continente stores.

In these establishments coupons are on sale for a range of products, such as olive oil, sausages, milk, oil, tuna and spaghetti, with each voucher representing one product unit (one can of sausages, one litre of oil, etc).

Each coupon clearly specifies which product it has been purchased for and states that it is destined for the Food Bank.

Food Banks work all year round, by distributing donated food to local Social Welfare Institutions. In 2009 Portugal's 14 Food Banks distributed a total of 23,100 tons of food, which was worth in the region of €26.2 million.

Portugal's first Food Bank Against Hunger emerged in 1992; at present there are actually 17 food depots actively working on national territory, aggregated as the Portuguese Federation of Food Banks.

Portugal confirms renovation of C-130 Air Force fleet

The Portuguese Air Force will begin renovating its fleet of Hercules C-130 aircraft next year, as planned, despite new austerity budget restrictions, Defence Minister Augusto Santos Silva said.

The government "plans to create conditions so that this programme can begin in 2011", Santos Silva told Lusa News Agency, underlining that Lisbon would honour pre-existing contracts while suspending new military acquisition programmes.

The Air Force plans to renew its six-plane fleet of C-130s.

An Air Force source told Lusa that parallel programmes to renovate the fleets of F-16 jetfighters and P-3 Orions and to acquire C-295 aircraft were already underway. *TPN/Lusa*

Socialists to back Alegre in presidential poll

Portugal's ruling Socialists have thrown their support behind the independent presidential candidacy of party maverick Manuel Alegre in next year's election.

The overwhelming vote for Alegre on Sunday evening in the Socialists' National Commission ended months of uncertainty over the party's stance towards the January poll in which conservative President Cavaco Silva is expected to seek a second and last five-year term.

Party leader and Prime Minister José Sócrates' motion in favour of backing the poet and veteran Socialist MP swept the more than 200-strong National Commission past the 10 no votes and one abstention.

Manuel Alegre's independent presidential bid had divided the party since his first run in 2006 helped split the leftist electorate, opening the way for a narrow first-round victory by Cavaco Silva.

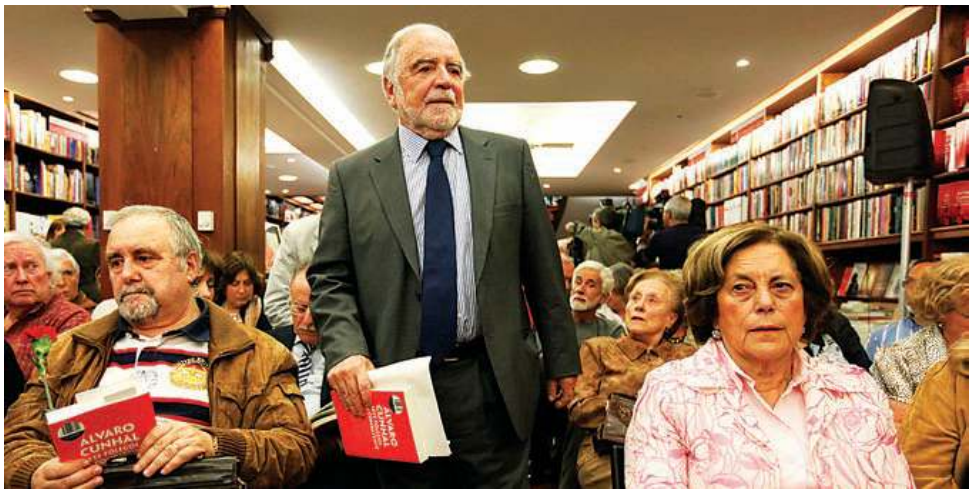
He was placed second ahead of the party's official candidate, former President Mário Soares, four years ago.

"I back Manuel Alegre with conviction in the name of a progressive vision for the country", José Sócrates, who heads a minority cabinet, told the Socialist leadership before their vote.

He noted that the campaign would be organised and led by Alegre, while underlining that Socialist backing was "not simply formal support".

"I also want Manuel Alegre to win", Sócrates said.

TPN/Lusa



Presidential candidate Manuel Alegre during the presentation of a book by Carlos Brito entitled 'Sete Fôlegos de Combatente' on May 7th in Lisbon. (Photo: Lusa / Manuel de Almeida)

Portugal promises to act on negative Amnesty report

Justice Minister Alberto Martins has promised to "relentlessly fight all forms of torture and degrading treatment" that might occur in Portugal, responding to an Amnesty International (AI) report that noted instances of police brutality in the country.

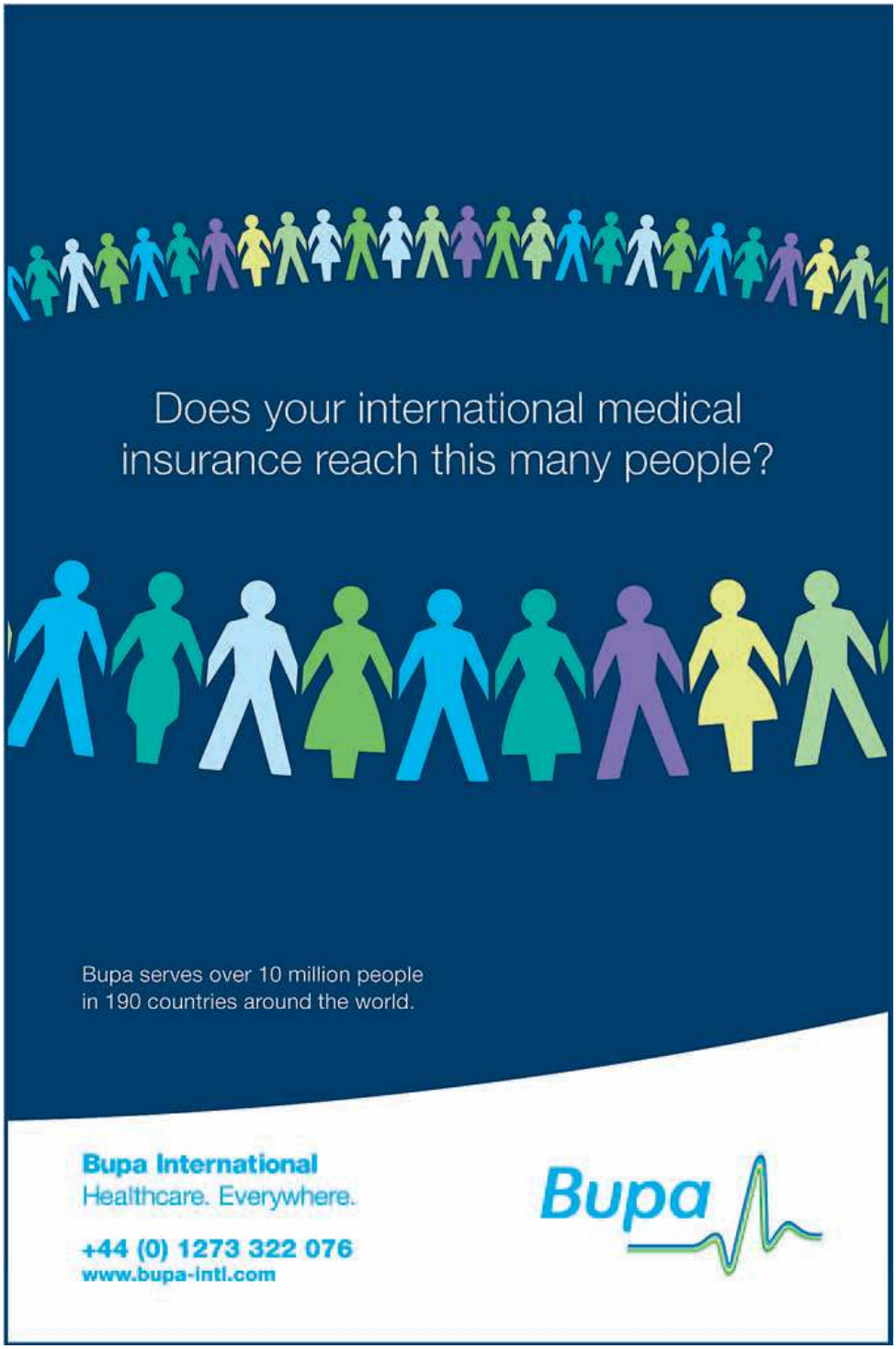
In the Portugal section of its 2010 Human Rights Report, AI claims that criminal investigations of torture allegations by police forces were slow and there was "evidence of impunity".

Alberto Martins noted that "none of the thousands of investigations by the Polícia Judiciária [criminal investigation police] were criticised by AI", and added that Portugal "has a policy (…) to relentlessly fight all forms of torture".

The Amnesty report was harshly criticised by ASFIC, a police union, whose president, Carlos Garcia, thinks AI "insists on reporting cases where [the officers charged] were tried and cleared of all charges".

"I don't know how they [AI] make those reports and how they reach those conclusions. I think they just go with what's being said and persist in reporting mistakes that have already been publicly corrected", Garcia told Lusa News Agency.

TPN/Lusa



Zeinal Bava CEO of Portugal Telecom

Spain's Telefónica considering PT takeover bid

Telefónica is pondering a takeover bid for Portugal's PT but "no decision has been reached" yet, the Spanish telecoms giant informed Portugal's market regulator and stock exchange commission CMVM.

CMVM last week asked for clarification on Telefónica's intentions regarding a potential takeover bid for PT, Portugal's largest telecommunications company. Telefónica's CFO, Santiago Fernandez Valbuena, told the Financial Times newspaper that "a hostile bid" was being considered.

Telefónica replied that "all possible alternatives" are in play regarding PT, but a decision is yet to be made.

PT's CEO, Zeinal Bava, said his company will "rise to the occasion" if a hostile bid is launched: "Don't underestimate PT. We've been the target of a hostile takeover bid in the past, and we held up well", Bava told journalists in New York, referring to 2006's takeover bid by Portugal's Sonaecom, which ultimately failed.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson for Telefónica refused to comment on PT's CEO Zeinal Bava's statement that it should leave the board of directors of the Portuguese company.

"Telefónica has no comment on that", the spokesperson told Lusa News Agency.

Telefónica's CFO, Santiago Fernandez Valbuena, had earlier told the Financial Times newspaper that "a hostile bid" for Portugal's biggest telecommunications company was being considered.

Telefónica currently holds a 10 percent stake in PT's capital, which entitles it to a board seat.

Ricardo Salgado, CEO of Banco Espírito Santo (BES), one of PT's major Portuguese shareholders, told Lusa that the Portuguese government should use its "golden share" powers in PT if Telefónica does move with a takeover bid.

However, Portugal's Finance Minister Fernando Teixeira dos Santos said it is "premature" to talk about a hostile bid and the state's use of its "golden share".

TPN/Lusa

Swiss Banks get tough with European clients

Swiss banks are tightening up on Europeans whom they suspect may be evading taxes in their home jurisdiction. It is Switzerland's latest quest to shake off implications of being known as an "unco-operative tax haven" and pursued by governments in their clampdown on tax evasion.

From now on European clients will find it harder to hide behind Switzerland's famous banking secrecy laws which in turn will threaten Switzerland's reputation for client confidentiality. Around 80% of funds placed in Switzerland by Europeans are undeclared and not taxed in their country of residence.

Switzerland has already announced that it does not want undeclared foreign assets in Swiss bank accounts and will talk with other jurisdictions for ways to prevent undeclared monies being placed in Swiss bank accounts. Switzerland is also considering a withholding tax with the revenue being forwarded to the account holder's tax authority. The tax would be raised on a broad base of assets including bank interest, dividends, capital gains and investment income. Switzerland currently withholds tax under the European Savings Tax Directive but on bank interest only. Switzerland is also considering requesting clients to sign a declaration that they are up to date with and compliant with tax due in their home jurisdiction. Some Swiss banks are requesting to see signed tax returns.

Ray Soudah, Head of Millenium Associates, an independent advisory firm to the global financial services industry was quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* as saying: "*We are in the midst of a transformational period both culturally and operationally. Tax-compliant wealth management will become the product in Switzerland, not bank secrecy and a tax haven.*"

Now Swiss bank UBS is spearheading a drive to closely scrutinise European clients whom they think could be tax evaders. As well as undermining Switzerland's reputation for client privacy, such action will probably reduce the bank's profitability. Nevertheless, UBS says it is pursuing tax compliance from European clients following an international crackdown on non-conforming tax jurisdictions.

UBS clients already have to sign a statement to the effect that any structure based in a traditional tax haven such as the British Virgin Islands which they hold with the bank is tax legitimate. Bankers at UBS and other Swiss banks are no longer allowed to travel abroad to see clients if the client is a possible tax evader and last year accounts held by US clients in Swiss banks were closed.

Swiss bank Julius Baer has said that this year every German account holder would receive a tax statement - a practice which could extend to other foreign clients.

Other banks are also taking defensive action. Bank Sarasin & Cie is curtailing the range of investment products available and restricting activity in the accounts of anyone suspected of not paying their tax. In some cases, bank accounts have been closed. Overall, new accounts are facing strict due diligence and many account holders wishing to move their portfolios have to reform them into fully compliant structures.

Tax "amnesties" in the UK, US, France and Italy have reduced the amount of money held in Swiss banks as clients affected withdraw funds to repatriate them in their home jurisdiction. UBS bankers have encouraged clients to take advantage of these amnesties to get straight with the tax system. There have also been incidents of stolen data containing names of suspected tax evaders offered to German and French authorities.

A long running battle with the US authorities over disclosure of names of suspected tax evaders has also highlighted Switzerland's standing as a 'safe' financial centre where assets can be shielded from the taxman. US citizens are being prosecuted for tax fraud which involved Swiss banks and banks in other countries, one of which has been identified as the UK's HSBC Holdings.

UBS also agreed to hand over 4,450 names of US account holders to the US tax authority. The agreement was declared as unenforceable by the Swiss Court which stated that there were insufficient legal grounds for providing treaty assistance in around 4,200 cases of continued and serious tax evasion. Tax evasion is currently accepted in Switzerland while tax fraud is a criminal offence. The Swiss parliament is now considering a revised agreement which would make the settlement conform with Swiss law and international tax standards.

Despite its adamancy that it will continue to protect the identity of banking clients, Switzerland's banking secrecy principles are slowly being eroded by the international pressure for tax transparency. Legitimate and effective tax planning is the best way to avoid your wealth being diminished by taxation.

by Bill Blevins, Financial Correspondent Blevins Franks

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Sócrates' Venezuela visit produces a score of business deals

Portuguese Prime Minister José Sócrates oversaw the signing of a series of bilateral business accords at the weekend during a brief visit to Venezuela where he held talks with President Hugo Chávez.

Officials said the 19 agreements inked on Saturday, ranging from contracts to memorandums of understanding in a wide gamut of fields, were worth nearly €1.7 billion and involved 15 Portuguese companies.

The deals included the construction of 12,500 low-income dwellings in Venezuela, the sale of 525,000 computers for use in primary schools and pharmaceutical products, wide-ranging support for revamping and maintaining the South American country's power grid, the building of large barges, and studies for setting up a pharmaceutical plant.

President Chávez said his country was poised to "take off" economically and invited Portuguese firms to boost their operations in Venezuela.

Prime Minister Sócrates gave special thanks for Caracas having allowed an exception to its tight currency transfer regulations, enabling the large Portuguese expatriate community to send home nearly $1 million collected for Madeira to help the island's recovery efforts after massive floods last February.

TPN/Lusa

Prime Minister José Sócrates and Venezuelan President Hugo Chaves during a signing ceremony at Miraflores Palace in Caracas on May 29th. (Photo: Lusa / António Cotrim)

Portuguese spend billions on Valentine's and Mother's Day

During the run up to Valentine's Day and Mother's Day this year more than two billion euros were withdrawn via cash machines, according to data from ATM network management company SIBS, figures that confirm the dates as two of the most significant, non-religious celebrations in the year.

The days' importance was further confirmed by the Portuguese Commerce and Services Confederation, CCP.

According to SIBS, between cash withdrawals from ATM machines and payments made with bank cards more than 20 million transactions were made throughout the week of Valentine's Day, February 14th, which this year fell on a Sunday, a rise of nine percent in comparison to 2009.

During the week of Mother's Day, which falls on the first Sunday in May, the ATM network registered more than 22 million withdrawal and payment operations, a rise of 12 percent in comparison to last year.

In the CCP's opinion, commemorative days always have a "positive impact on sales and movement in commercial areas".

CCP vice-president Vasco de Mello told Lusa News Agency that "the days with most impact are Valentine's Day, Mother's Day and Father's Day respectively".

"More recent celebrations, like Children's Day [June 1st] or 'Grandparent's Day' [July 26th] are not as expressive as they are not yet a tradition", he said.

Despite the global economic crisis, during the entire month of March cash withdrawals rose by 3.6 percent in quantity and by five percent in value.

But according to SIBS, it was Christmas 2009 that broke all previous records regarding ATM transactions, with some 6.8 million operations being carried out on December 23rd alone, corresponding to €380 million being spent in one day.

Balancing public accounts is "true national priority" - Economy Minister

A forecast for the Portuguese economy issued by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) means that balancing the public accounts should be a "true national priority", Economy Minister José Vieira da Silva told Lusa News Agency.

The OECD expects the Portuguese economy to grow one percent this year and 0.8 percent in 2011, rates below the estimated Eurozone average. Still, Vieira da Silva noted, the OECD's projected growth for Portugal's GDP in 2010 "is higher than any previous forecast, including the government's own, at 0.7 percent percent.

The forecast "shows how important it is for Portugal to carry out a strategy for balancing public accounts", Minister Vieira da Silva said, adding that the nation is "paying attention to this message" and that fiscal responsibility is a "true national priority".

The OECD's Economic Outlook report, released in Paris, predicts Portugal will be close to its stated public deficit goal for 2010 (7.3 percent of GDP).

However, the report expects Portugal to miss the government's target of 4.6 percent of GDP for 2011; OECD forecasts instead the budget deficit will be 5.6 percent of GDP that year.

The OECD also predicted that the unemployment rate would rise to 10.6 percent in 2010, dropping slightly to 10.4 percent next year.

The economy minister also commented on the unemployment figure, stating that "obviously, it's at a very high level, especially in 2010, but it is in line with the current situation, therefore [OECD] is not predicting any further deterioration".

As to inflation, the report pointed to a 0.9 percent rate this year and 1.1 percent next year.

It welcomed Lisbon's recent austerity measures to consolidate its budget deficit, saying the package was "essential to guarantee the confidence of investors" and assure "access to external financing". *TPN/Lusa*

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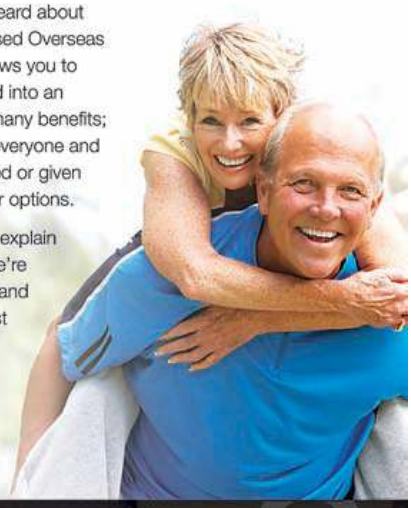
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Gov't to privatise remaining stakes in energy companies in 2010

Finance Minister Teixeira dos Santos and 16 directors of major Portuguese companies on May 26th during a visit to the New York stock exchange to promote investment in Portugal. (Photo: Lusa / Valerie Caviness)

Finance Minister Fernando Teixeira dos Santos has revealed that the Portuguese government will privatise its remaining stakes in energy companies EDP and Galp in 2010, if market conditions so allow.

"We will especially focus in the energy sector in 2010, namely on Galp and EDP. If we can accomplish [those privatizations] as soon as 2010, it is in our interest to do so", Teixeira dos Santos said during a visit to the New York Stock Exchange.

"We must pay attention to the financial markets", the minister added.

Galp and EDP, former state monopolies, are now privately owned for the most part. The Portuguese government still holds an eight percent share of Galp and a 25 percent share of EDP.

The privatisation of these shares has been in the government's plans, but last Wednesday was the first time Teixeira dos Santos stated he intends going forward with the move this year.

TPN/Lusa

Informal economy estimated at 23 percent of GDP

The informal economy in Portugal is worth €30 billion, corresponding to 23 percent of the official GDP, and may increase as the financial crisis endures, Carlos Pimenta, head of the Fraud Management Observatory (FMO) told Lusa News Agency on Friday.

"Both fraud and the informal economy have risen in Portugal" in recent years, Carlos Pimenta said.

FMO data measures "mostly tax evasion; if illegal activity is taken into account, the figures would probably be higher", he added.

Portugal's "shadow economy" is, in relative terms, "2.6 times larger than the US's, 2.3 times larger than Switzerland's, 1.5 times larger than France's", Pimenta said, adding however that it is "similar to Spain's and smaller than Italy's or Greece's".

TPN/Lusa

Azores airport gets expanded facilities

Authorities opened a new passenger terminal and aircraft parking facilities at Ponta Delgada's John Paul II international airport last Friday .

Airport authority ANA's José Luís Alves said the expansion was part of a €30 million programme aimed to boost annual capacity to 1.2 million passengers from the current 900,000, Lusa News Agency reported.

Beat the credit crunch and buy that dream home in the sun

The recent credit crunch has been worldwide with the property market in Portugal suffering like many other European countries. The local banks were reluctant to lend, and, at the time, immediately either stopped lending to foreign nationals or tightened their lending criteria, adding to the downturn in the property market.

2010 is seeing an improvement in the picture with local estate agents reporting that over the last couple of months enquiries, viewings and sales has noticeably picked up across the market. "There is definitely more confidence in the market, and as a result of this we are seeing sales progress to completion," reported one local estate agent. Recent research from Rightmove, in the UK supports the claim as it found that foreign property searches increased by 60 per cent in March this year in comparison to March 2009. Interestingly the largest monthly increases in searches were in Costa Verde, Portugal where they were up 106.1 per cent. Harjinder Singh, marketing manager at KBS Property Investments, said: "the change in foreign exchange rates for the euro have almost been made redundant due to the price drops that have occurred in the last couple of years". One of the contributing factors may also be that the banks are now looking for a reason to lend.

Buying property in Portugal for the first time can be a daunting experience as procedures are somewhat different here to those in the UK and some other European countries. The real estate agents are generally very helpful in guiding their clients through the sometimes complex legalities of the purchase.

Once having found that dream home seeking finance or a mortgage in a foreign country can also be a new experience.

It is a good idea to obtain an 'Agreement in Principal' for your mortgage before agreeing to purchase the property or before signing any contracts and paying a deposit and make sure that the fact that you are seeking a mortgage is stated in any contract, and, where possible, seek an 'opt-out clause' if the loan is not agreed. This will ensure any deposit paid is refunded.

When seeking a mortgage it is a good idea to "shop around" or seek the advice of a mortgage broker. With lending still being tight it is noticeable that the banks have increased their spreads (the amount of interest added to the bank base rate to calculate an overall mortgage rate) making a mortgage here more expensive than it has been recently. Where lenders would readily lend up to 80% loan to value many have dropped this to 70% and even lower. The bank valuations have become more conservative with property prices falling. However, in April 2010, the Portuguese Instituto Nacional De Estatistica reported, the average value of housing bank appraisals increased 0.1% compared to March representing an average of €1,173/sq. meter. The year-on-year growth rate was 3.6%.

The range of mortgages has diminished but it is still possible to obtain 80% loan to value or more depending on the lender and the valuation. The spreads, mentioned earlier now range from just less than 1% up to 3%. It is therefore important that the purchaser finds the right lender/scheme as this can, in some cases, amount to considerable savings over the mortgage term. Offshore companies, holding property in Portugal, have been particularly hard hit with virtually all the lenders reluctant to lend in these cases. This is also changing with lenders now considering this type of funding even for equity release in certain circumstances. Other possibilities that are starting to appear again are, bridging finance, investment mortgages for rental properties and interest only mortgages, all helping to stimulate the market further.

With real estate agents reporting that properties that have been on their books for a considerable time are now starting to be sold at realistic prices, now may be a good time to buy that dream home in the sun

If you would like any further advice or information on the matter as Portugal's leading mortgage and financial services advisers we are always willing to help. Contact Michael at Gibro Consultores, Loulè, Portugal, 00351 289 463271 or 00351 918726557

Gaat u ook naar de Algarve Fair?

Kom dan ook even bij Alex Vermogensbank langs. Gewoon voor een kopje koffie of een praatje. Maar natuurlijk kunt u zich ook even op de hoogte stellen van het laatste financiële nieuws of ideeën uitwisselen met onze beleggingsexperts.

Wij zijn de hele dag aanwezig maar op zaterdag én zondag is het om 17.00 uur borreltijd. Als u ons van te voren laat weten dat u komt sturen wij u een entreebewijs voor de Algarve Fair. Wel zo makkelijk.

U kunt zich inschrijven voor de borrel via www.alexspanje.com, of door een email te sturen naar info@alexportugal.nl of te bellen met + 351 282 380 335.

Tot ziens op de Alex BeurStand op de Algarve Fair op 5 & 6 juni in Lagoa.

South African primary school children make kudu for Portugal

Brendan de Beer

Sixth graders from a South African school located in the rural town of Middelburg have spent the past few weeks preparing for the highly anticipated World Cup by transforming one of the country's most recognisable antelope, the kudu, into a symbol representing the Portuguese national team.

Located in the Mpumulanga province, Laerskool Middelburg is an Afrikaans-language school, where children have dedicated countless hours preparing their respective kudus for the World Cup.

The pride and joy of the Grade 6E class is their "Hot Peri-Peri Kudu" (see photo), and have been eagerly awaiting publication of their 'work-of-art' since they first learnt it might be placed in a newspaper based in Portugal.

In a letter sent by the children to **The Portugal News**, they said: "The 2010 World Cup is here and we at Laerskool Middelburg in South Africa are proud to be part of the celebrations.

"All our classes at the school were given a specific country and our Grade 6E class was thrilled to be given Portugal.

"We all just love Christiano Ronaldo and wanted to make our kudu very special. We had so much fun painting the kudu and named it 'The Hot Peri-Peri Kudu'.

"Even though South Africa is our first team we will all be cheering for Portugal and we hope that our kudu will make you feel welcome in our sunny South Africa."

Photo right: The 'Portuguese kudu', the pride and joy of a group sixth graders at a school in Mpumulanga, South Africa

Portugal displeased at 'Jabulani' ball

Brendan de Beer

Following the criticism in countries such as England over the lighter and faster World Cup ball is Portugal, which has complained the ball will reduce the quality of matches at the 2010 World Cup.

Speaking after Portugal's 3-1 win over Cameroon, manager Carlos Queiroz expressed his displeasure at the ball, which has been called 'Jabulani', meaning 'rejoice' in Zulu.

Mr. Queiroz said most players were struggling to come to terms with the ball, which due to its lightness, "has unpredictable trajectories" that "don't improve the game's quality".

He admitted that players needed to work on getting used to the ball if are to stand a chance at the World Cup, that starts on June 11, though he anticipated that less talented teams will benefit from the ball's unpredictability.

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EU offers oil recovery equipment to aid in US oil spill disaster

The European Commission's Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) has confirmed it received a request for assistance from the United States Coast Guard to provide specific types of oil recovery equipment late last week. Within a few hours, the MIC was able to put together a consolidated European offer with equipment available from Spain, the Netherlands and the European Maritime Safety Agency.

"We stand shoulder to shoulder with our American friends as they work to deal with this environmental disaster. We have already developed an excellent co-operation on emergency response and this positive reaction from Europe to the call for equipment for the Gulf of Mexico is an international solidarity in dealing with ecological disasters," said Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response.

The US Coast Guard has identified an urgent need for three complete sets of rigid sweeping arms. These are specific types of skimmers that can be attached directly to a ship in order to recover oil.

These sweeping arms are to be used in the oil spill recovery operations in the Gulf of Mexico and should be lent to the US for a period of 1-3 months.

All costs associated with the transport, handling and replacement of the arms and related equipment will be covered by a US contracted company.

The European Commission's Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) reacted immediately forwarding the request to the Participating States and to the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). Within less than one hour, Spain made a first offer of assistance. This was followed by offers from EMSA and the Netherlands.

The MIC has consolidated the offers and is ready to coordinate a swift and urgent operation to gather all the necessary equipment and ship it directly by air to Houston and/or New Orleans.

The MIC together with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) has been monitoring the situation over the last weeks and also stands ready to send a team of experts to facilitate coordination of the EU assets' deployment on the ground.

Photo above left: BP CEO Tony Hayward takes a first hand look at the recovery operations aboard the Discover Enterprise drill ship in the Gulf of Mexico 55 miles (88.5 km) south of Venice, Louisiana, USA on 28 May. (Photo: EPA/Sean Gardner)

New measures adopted to improve housing conditions of Roma communities

The European Parliament has given its green light to a proposal from the European Commission which makes it possible to use European regional funding to improve housing for marginalised communities.

This measure, previously agreed by EU Member States, will be particularly welcomed by the Roma population, estimated to include around 10-12 million people in Europe who often live in extremely deprived and segregated conditions.

Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for Regional Policy, welcomes the decision: "The Roma community is Europe's largest minority group, which is often the victim of marginalisation, deprivation and social exclusion. I welcome today's decision, which will allow regional policy to help break the vicious circle in which these communities seem to be trapped. This should be part of an overall approach covering also actions in the fields of education, health, social affairs and employment."

Rock in Rio ends with a blast

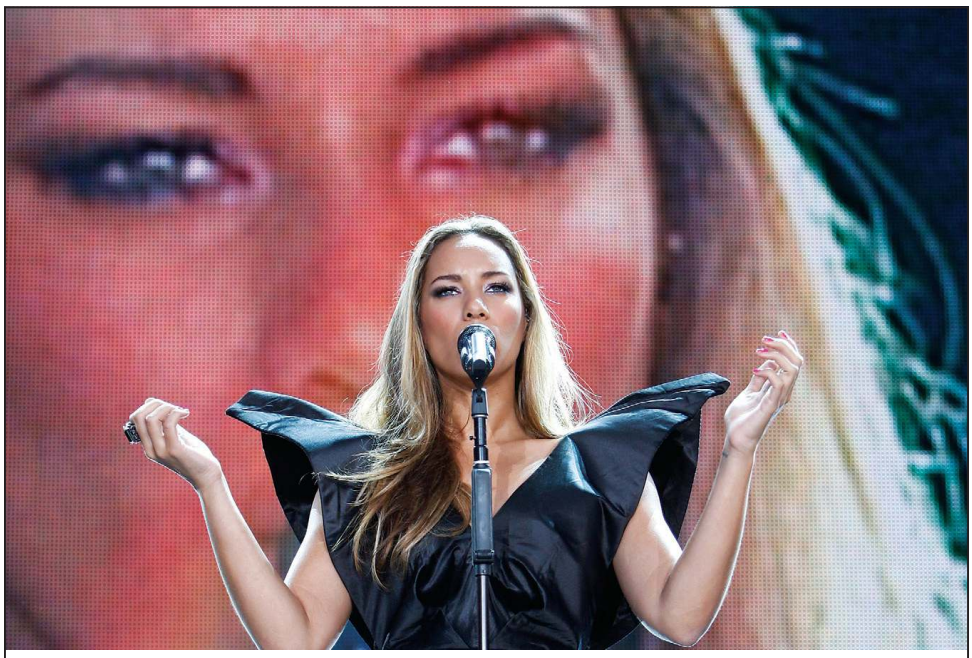
Having attracted millions of fans over the past seven events, this year's Rock in Rio was once again a tremendous success with a brilliant line up of artists at the Bela Vista Park.

The Rock in Rio music festival is one of the biggest in the world and has so far counted seven events, three in Brazil, three in Lisbon and one in Madrid. The festival aims to promote a better world through music, with the intention of educating, and creating awareness and initiative by mobilising the younger generation. The theme of this year's festival was sustainable development, promoting development without endangering future generations, using the earth's resources responsibly and preserving species and natural habitats.

Having taken place on 21st, 22nd, 27th, 29th and 30th May, the Parque da Bela Vista hosted a wide range of fantastic concerts, with a stellar line-up of worldly renowned artists such as Shakira, John Mayer, Elton John, Leona Lewis, Muse, Snow Patrol, Miley Cyrus, Rammstein, Motorhead and more.

The final night was dedicated to heavy metal, with the German band Rammstein ending the five day festival with a blast and impressive pyrotechnics, after an energetic set from a band with a 30 year career, Motorhead.

Paulo Fellin, was extremely happy with the outcome of this year's festival "The city of Rock has matured, it is prettier. Rock in Rio is becoming an event for all types of people" said the General Manager of the event.



British singer Leona Lewis performing live on the second day of the Rock in Rio music festival at Bela Vista Park in Lisbon, Portugal, 22 May 2010. (Photo: EPA/José Sena Goulão)

Setback for traffic on Marginal to last one more week

Traffic disruptions on the Marginal, entering Cascais, will be continuing for one more week in order to finish the construction of the 'Estoril Sol Residence' complex.

Cascais Council released a statement last week regarding the traffic disruptions, which began on Monday 31st May, caused by the construction of the new complex: "In order to finalise the project at the 'Estoril Sol Residence' development, traffic on the Marginal Road, at the entrance of Cascais, will suffer disruptions in one lane in the Cascais-Estoril direction, maintaining two lanes open in the other direction."

According to the Council, the construction works involve the re-shaping of the North side of the Marginal's pavement, as well as connecting the water system of the Miragem Hotel to the new complex's drainage system.

The new 'Estoril Sol Residence' is expected to be completed by the end of June, replacing the old Estoril-Sol hotel.

Petrol station robbed in Cascais

A Cascais petrol station was held up by a hooded robber last Sunday night, according to the local GNR.

"The individual took an undetermined amount of cash" stated the GNR, adding that the criminal used a metal pipe to threaten the petrol station's employee. The robbery took place on Sunday night, at around 10.30pm.

At time of going to press, the criminal had not been caught.

Benfica supporters' club members jailed

A total of thirteen members of the 'No Name Boys', Benfica's unofficial supporters club, have been sentenced to jail, the heaviest being twelve years, with a further sixteen being given suspended sentences and eight being acquitted.

A total of 37 individuals associated with the 'No Name Boys' were charged with drug trafficking, possession of guns and other weapons, arson, damage, grievous bodily harm, association with criminal activity and several other crimes. The PSP began investigating illegal practices carried out by these members in 2008, having summoned 53 suspects to Court, a number which was later reduced to 37, after its report was handed in on April 14th 2009.

At the end of 2008, thirty members of the 'No Name Boys' were arrested during the 'Fair Play' operation, in which the PSP seized several guns and other weapons, arson material and drugs from the members of the 'No Name Boys'.

On May 28th, Lisbon's Criminal Courts gave thirteen defendants prison sentences, with António Claro receiving the heaviest, 12 years, followed by Hugo Caturna (eight and a half years) and José Pité Ferreira (seven years). All three were found guilty of drug trafficking, grievous bodily harm and damage to private property. Eight defendants were acquitted from all charges due to lack of evidence, whilst sixteen were given suspended sentences.

Cascais sea considered "excellent"

For the first time ever in its history, all the beaches in Cascais have had their swimming areas awarded an "excellent" standard, according to the Council's Environment councillor.

"For the first time ever, all our beaches have excellent quality water and even Pescadores beach, closed to bathers for over 10 years, now has good quality sea, which was once unthinkable" said Carlos Carreiras.

People can now swim at all sixteen beaches, from Carcavelos to Abano beaches with no restrictions.

Also, during the bathing season, which began on June 1st, sea quality tests will be carried out daily, with information boards on the beaches informing bathers of the results.

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Facelift for Oeiras riverside

The Cruz Quebrada-Dafundo area, covering 27.6 hectares, will be receiving a huge facelift with a new marina, a municipal pool and hotel, as well as homes and shops, Oeiras Council revealed last week.

Council members and the Science and Technology Faculty of Lisbon's Nova University presented the new project to the local population last week, which looks to renovate the Cruz Quebrada area and supply it with services, tourism facilities and equipment, seeing it has an 'ageing' population with diminishing employment figures.

The detailed planning has some obligations imposed by the council, as well as the marina, a hotel, and a municipal swimming pool, a road connection between the CRIL and CREL, the renovation of the Cruz Quebrada train station and the construction of dwellings.

The marina should have capacity for 200 boats and provide services and shops. The hotel unit will be built on a 14,000 square metre plot, with the swimming pool being integrated with the marina and a beach side walkway.

Several private companies that own specific areas will be involved in these renovations, as well as public entities, such as Lisbon's Port Administration, the Council and REFER (train company).

The detailed planning project has a nine month deadline for conclusion.

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Faro resident association up in arms over parking shortage

The 'Citizens with Faro in their Heart' (CFC) association is accusing the council of an "electoral hoax" after it prohibited parking in one of the city's main roads, despite the Mayor saying he is abiding by the law.

Vehicles that used to park on the 5th October Avenue in Faro have not been allowed to do so since mid April, with the Council having placed cones to prevent vehicles from parking.

The CFC association, fronted by Faro's former Mayor José Vitorino, has accused the current Mayor of not having asked the opinion of the Local Parish or having given any alternatives to local residents regarding parking in the area.

According to the citizens' association, the construction of a parking lot simultaneously with the prohibition of parking was one of the electoral promises of the current Mayor, Macário Correia. "They promised dialogue and participation and now they are using oppression" says the statement of the association, accusing Macário Correia of creating an "electoral hoax" for not delivering what he had promised.

One resident of the area said "I am all for the pavements being for pedestrians, but there have to be alternatives", suggesting that some spaces should be given to residents who don't possess a garage. On the other hand, another local resident agrees with the prohibition, saying the pavements should be available for people to ride bicycles, walk and for the children to play.

Sub-aquatic Museum in Portimão given green light

Portimão Town Hall intends to create a sub-aquatic museum dedicated to the Portuguese Navy, off Praia da Rocha, which it hopes will attract some 90,000 tourists per year, said Mayor Manuel da Luz.

Mayor da Luz revealed that results from an economic forecast study, commissioned to calculate earnings from the project in 10 years time showed that the region would benefit from an intake of €226 million.

The project, which allows visitors to see the underwater exhibition by diving, has recently been given the green light by the Ministry of Defence.

"At the end of the day, what we are doing is investing in a new tourist segment that over the past few years has experienced strong growth all over the world" he said.

Luís Sá Couto, a diving expert and businessman who is partnering Portimão Town Hall in the project, compared sub-aquatic museums with the "enormous boom" that alpine skiing experienced 12 years ago.

He believes that in 10 years the museum could attract more than 620,000 visitors from all over Europe and more than a million when accompanying visitors are included.

Despite "Portugal not being seen as a great dive destination", Sá Couto says "there is a very big coast to explore".

Cash machine ripped from Guia bank

A growing number of incidents involving cash points being ripped out of walls and stolen using diggers has plagued the Algarve over recent months, with another having occurred recently in Guia.

The machine was taken from the Caixa de Crédito Agrícola branch in Guia, Albufeira.

According to a police source, the incident took place at around 5am when residents in neighbouring houses were woken by the noise.

The assailant used a mini-digger to break through the bank's window, rip the machine out, and transport it to a nearby goods vehicle that was later discovered to have been stolen from Loulé.

The digger was also stolen from a construction site in Pêra, Silves. It was found to belong to the local Town Hall.

People who witnessed the incident told Lusa News Agency that the man was armed with a rifle and that the incident only lasted a few minutes.

GNR sources claim the robbery, which is now being investigated by the PJ, could have involved an accomplice.

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Silves Castle make-over nominated for EU architectural award

A renovation design project for Silves Castle's north façade has made it onto a shortlist of nine finalists for the Rosa Barba European Landscape Award, from which the winner will be announced on October 1st, at the European Landscape Architecture Biennial, in Barcelona.

The design, created by landscape architect João Ferreira Nunes, was chosen from 427 candidates from all over the world.

It incorporates a system of wooden ramps and green spaces from which privileged views of Silves city can be enjoyed, and foresees the separation of public zones from conditioned or no-go areas.

Parking will be catered for, with streets and roads being paved in regional stone.

The nine finalists will be competing for top prize in a category named 'Liquid Landscapes', in the European Landscape Architecture Biennial, which takes place from September 30th to October 2nd, in La Pedrera, Barcelona (Spain).

The Portuguese design will be competing against other projects submitted from Norway, Spain, Holland, Denmark and Israel.

Considered to be one of the most important distinctions in landscaping architecture, the Rosa Barba award has, for the past five years, acknowledged Europe's most distinct and innovative projects.

It was introduced in 1999, in Barcelona, to honour Rosa Barba, the first teacher of landscape architecture at the Barcelona Superior School of Architecture (ETSAB) and instigator of the Masters Degree in landscaping architecture.

Silves Castle

Company aims to bring Hollywood studios to the Algarve

The new 'cinema-city' of Portimão, in the Algarve (Southern Portugal), intends to bring Hollywood studios to film pictures there and is "in talks" with Fox, Paramount and Warner Brothers, consultant Carlos Mattos told Lusa News Agency late last week.

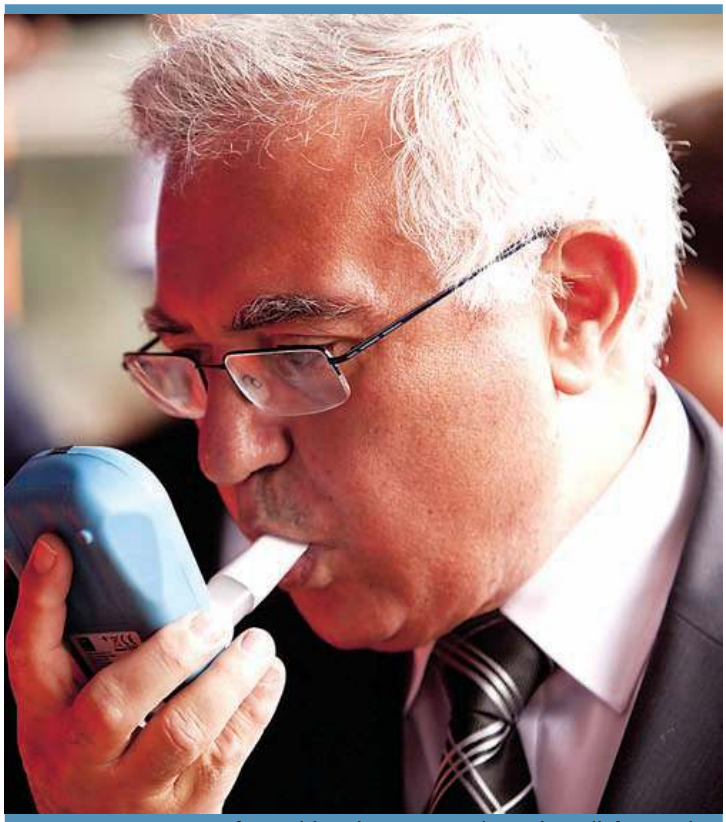
"We're trying to reach the major studies to see if they're interested in investing", said Mr Mattos, who owns filming equipment company CDM Interactive and works as consultant for Picture Portugal, the company who runs the "cinema city" built in Portimão.

"Portugal is Southern Europe's answer to California" Mattos added, "with similar facilities and the ability to offer state of the art equipment, we hope to attract [American] productions".

The first picture to be filmed at Picture Portugal will be "Femina", directed by American Matt Cimber, starring Brazilian Sónia Braga, said Mattos, who is one of the film's executive producers.

TPN/Lusa

Smokers now less than a quarter of population, below EU average



European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, John Dalli from Malta participates in a campaign to mark 'No Tobacco Day' at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, 27 May 2010. (Photo: EPA/Olivier Hoslet)

Smokers are currently 23 percent of Portugal's population, a rate below the European Union average of 29 percent, according to a recent Eurobarometer survey published.

The typical Portuguese smoker is male (30 percent of men smoke, against 17 percent of women) and middle-aged (35 percent of people between the ages of 40 and 54 smoke).

According to the survey, 64 percent of Portuguese respondents claimed never to have smoked (the figure for the EU was 49 percent).

However, those who do smoke in Portugal tend to smoke more than their European peers: the average consumption of cigarettes among Portuguese smokers per day is 15.5, while the EU average is 14.4.

The results of the Eurobarometer survey further shows that a strong majority of EU citizens support stronger tobacco control measures.

For example, three in every four Europeans supports picture health warnings on tobacco packs and smoke free restaurants.

The survey also indicates, however, that nearly one in every three Europeans still smokes, despite the fact that tobacco kills half of its users.

The Commission is planning to launch an open consultation shortly with a view to revising the 2001 Tobacco Products Directive and is stepping up its tobacco control efforts throughout the EU.

John Dalli, Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy said: "Tobacco kills 650,000 Europeans every year, and many lives could be saved by reducing tobacco consumption. I am particularly concerned about smoking rates amongst young people: Europe cannot passively watch future generations smoke away their health!"

The commissioner added: "I am determined to do everything in my power to reduce tobacco consumption across Europe via the upcoming revision of existing legislation on tobacco products, and consider measures that can contribute to a clear and effective set of rules to support Europeans' health."

EU looks to bring legal certainty to cross-border marriages

Germany, Belgium and Latvia have joined nine EU Member States in asking for legislation that will bring legal certainty to international couples wishing to divorce.

Under the European Commission proposal, couples will be able to agree which law would apply to their divorce even when they do not plan to separate.

The plan follows a request from nine EU Member States, which wanted to move forward after a 2006 Commission proposal became deadlocked in the Council.

The new solution will help couples of different nationalities, those living apart in different countries or those living together in a country other than their home country.

The aim is to lessen the effects on children and to protect weaker partners during divorce disputes. It would be the first time that EU countries use the so-called "enhanced cooperation" mechanism in EU history. Under the EU Treaties, enhanced cooperation allows nine or more countries to move forward on a measure that is important, but blocked by a small minority of Member States. Other EU countries keep the right to join when they want.

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Introducing the swimmer on whom Portugal's Olympic hopes rest

Tommy Broad

He currently holds two national records for 50m and 100m freestyle swimming and is one of Portugal's hopefuls for the 2012 London Olympics, being trained under the Olympic Committee fund. Half Portuguese and half French, Alexandre Agostinho's path to his current status as Portugal's best freestyle speed swimmer has not been plain sailing.

Having started his swimming career at the tender age of four, Alexandre Agostinho was neither the best nor the most talented athlete amongst his colleagues, but hard work and dedication over the years have transformed him into the reference point of Portugal's sprint swimming and the nation's hope for the 2012 London Olympics.

Alexandre began competing as an athlete for Portinado, Portimão's swimming school, at eight years of age and said had it not been for his parents' support he would not be where he is right now. Speaking to **The Portugal News**, Alexandre, born in France but living his entire life in Portugal, said "My parents have always been there for me in sport, whilst also wanting me to concentrate on my academic life", delighting them when he completed his degree in Physiotherapy in 2009. "A great part of an athlete's success comes from their parents' support, as it is they who tirelessly take you to training, to events, and keep on believing in you" said the national champion in both the 50 and 100 metres races.

Despite being an athlete for Portinado at such a young age, Agostinho only began competing in national competitions when he was fifteen, in 2001, when all his efforts began showing some results. "When I was younger I was never the best, but my progression started when I entered the Junior category and started competing nationally" he said, adding, "My first international competition was in the 2004 Junior Europeans, which didn't go too well and I ended among the last places, in 29th or 30th."

It was in 2008 that Alexandre's first glimpse as an Olympic hopeful appeared. Although his European Championships in Eindhoven didn't go smoothly he was left with one last chance to make the minimum times for the Beijing Olympics at the 2008 Mare Nostrum Circuit. It was one of the most testing times for him as he missed out on the minimum time by 0.2 seconds, which left him extremely upset at the time. In retrospect though, Alexandre Agostinho is happy with the way things turned out as "I wasn't prepared at the time to enter the Olympics; I needed at least one more year's training."

Despite becoming national champion for the first time in 2006, Agostinho felt that his progression as an athlete took its biggest leap after his disappointment at not qualifying for the Olympics, when he broke his first national record in the December 2008 nationals.

Since then, he has successively broken his own records and his gruelling training regime is pushing him further up the ladder in worldwide swimming, currently ranked in the top 25. He trains six days a week, five hours a day, which is split into morning and evening training, with a couple of hours of gym in between. He also travels to training camps on a regular basis, having recently spent time in Sierra Nevada and Tenerife, in Spain carrying out intense training with the Portuguese national squad.

He is now focussing all his attention on the Budapest European competitions, which take place in August, needing to make minimum times to participate in next year's World Championships. This will be his chance to make the London Olympics' minimum times. "I am currently well below the Beijing minimums and when the time comes I am confident I will make the London Olympics" said Alexandre, who dreams of Olympic success in 2012, "My dream for the Olympics is to make the finals, a medal would be absolutely amazing but I don't want to set the bar too high."

The sprint swimmer has some hurdles no other athlete in the world's elite has to endure, which is swimming in a 25 metre pool. "Training in a 25 metre pool is my biggest handicap; I am the only athlete in the world's top 25 that trains in a 25 metre pool on a regular basis."

Although Portimão has announced the construction of an Olympic size pool, Agostinho is not sure it will be completed in time for his competitive career "I hope I am still competing when Portimão's 50 metre pool opens, but it doesn't look like it will be happening", as the project has been delayed somewhat. However, this does not deter him "I will keep competing whilst I enjoy swimming, get good times and while my health allows me to compete."

Alexandre Agostinho currently holds the national records for 50 metres freestyle (21.64 seconds in a 25 metre pool and 22.36 in a 50 metre pool), and 100 metres freestyle (47.64 seconds in a 25 metre and 49.50 in a 50 metre pool).

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Pylons spoil view

SIR, This is supposed to be an up and coming tourist area, but just look at what the idiots in charge have done to the view towards the Serra de Estrella.

COL, By e-mail

Driving in Portugal

SIR, Regarding the problems encountered on the roads by the visitor as per your letters page 29th May, obviously this person does not know that there is only one Rule of the Road in Portugal. That is - NEVER PRESUME.

Never Presume that the driver in the car at the side of the road will indicate to say he/she is moving out

Never Presume that the driver of the car in front of you will signal to inform you they are turning left/right or where they are heading round a roundabout

Never Presume that drivers of cars coming out of side-streets will check first that the way is clear

Never Presume that the driver of the car attached to your rear bumper will back off, once they realise that you are going the speed limit and will go no faster

Never Presume that just because there is a solid white line that they will not overtake, causing traffic to move over quickly, or brake

Never Presume that the white line means you keep to your own side of the road - especially on bends, and

Never Presume that you have right of way, even if you do.

I'm sure this is just the tip of the iceberg for this rule. But once you get used to it, along with having eyes in the back of your head and a quick reflex of the foot from accelerator to brake, then driving is quite simple!

On a final note, we were involved in a bump when a driver of a 4x4 came out of a side road without looking (this was a few years ago, when we were still novices). And the driver of that car was ENGLISH!

DIANNE MEAKIN, Tavira

A PhD. in Gazpacho

SIR, Martin Scribbler was right, you guys are really getting into the swing of things. So someone has a PhD. in Watercress from the University of Bath! (News 22 May). This is the kind of news we all want to hear. More of this sort of reporting please. Now I know about these amazing courses I shall apply to see if they'll give me a doctorate in gazpacho.

Last year I gave you a splendid recipe for that amazing summer soup. However, my friend Ruth asked me to do a cucumber one, rather than a tomato based soup. Sounds about right for a hot day, so I tried it. You may like to do likewise.

One peeled pepino, 3 (or more) cloves of garlic, one medium (or large) onion, a tablespoon (or more if you like your food spicy) of minced chillies, 1 or 2 lemons without the peel or pips, 2 level teaspoons of salt, a handful of mint, a handful of cilentro, 2 tablespoons of olive oil, and a full wineglass of white wine. Put the pepino, garlic, onion, chillies, lemon, mint and cilentro into a blender, and whizz till it is completely mushy. Pour into a large bowl. Rinse out the blender in a little water and add that. Now add in the liquids, and stir. You could add a cup of water if the mix seems a bit thick. Put the covered dish into the fridge, and serve cold. You need some croutons to drop into the bowls after serving.

As for a drink, I think I shall stick with a fine rosé, but you might try a vinho verde.

JOHN CLARE, Arao

MP's salaries

SIR, It was good to read in **The Portugal News** that our Portuguese MPs are taking a 5% salary cut to set a good example to us all during these difficult financial times. This follows examples set by many other MPs throughout the EU.

However I was interested to read that they have also awarded themselves an increase of 7.1 million euros to cover their expenses this year which will include a 25% increase in travel expenses! This will put their annual expenses bill up to 200 million euros which is equivalent to *€20.00 for every man women and child in Portugal or €869,566 per MP!*

It seems to me that a 5% salary cut is not a bad exchange for an expenses package of nearly €870,000 per year.....plus salary.

I would like to know where it is possible to get a similar expenses package in commercial business without being an MD of a very successful company? The only way these sort of expenses are generally available is for failed MDs who are being given a 'golden parachute' to leave.

It seems a very cynical gesture on the part of MPs to award themselves this money when the **guardians of law and order have to pay out of their own pockets** if they wish **to improve their driving standards** to enable them to do their job more effectively. Or is it just me?

NORMAN THOMPSON, Guia

One theory ....

SIR, *The Gulf of Mexico oil spill, financial market collapse of 2008, and the worldwide economic recession are linked!* And the reason for the civil, social, political, and economic unrest we see today is very easy to understand. For the last 30+ years every leader in the industrialized world, be they political leaders or commercial leaders, have been touting the growth, growth, growth model; unfettered, unending, unregulated growth and growth at all costs. Then when restriction occurs, instead of growth, and the people do not get what they were promised they tend to do what we are seeing today across the industrialized world—they demonstrate their anger and frustration at those leaders with street protests, labor strikes, and voting "the bums" out of office.

Instead of the growth model for the past 30 years, the leadership should have been touting the sustainability model. If 1/10 the time, energy, effort, and money been put into the sustainability model to make is as wholesome, attractive, sexy, needed, and wanted as the growth model, then the Western World would not now be facing the crises mentioned in the opening sentence. As it is now, this model is thought of and treated as an unwanted stepchild; it is marginalized and kept out of the mainstream thinking via satire and demeaning commentary from the accepted "thinkers and leaders" within western society.

Just one example of the wrong-headed growth model proponents can be found in the auto industry. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the auto industry switched from carburetors to fuel injectors. They told us, the consuming public, the fuel injectors were more effective and more efficient at keeping our vehicles running. So, we "bought" them with the idea in mind that efficiency was a good thing. At the same time, numerous detailed designs for high mileage carburetors were released from the files of the auto industry. Several "rugged individualist" types used these newly available plans to build these carburetors for their personal vehicles, which resulted in them getting 60+ mpg. The answer as to why these carburetors were not installed on the mass produced vehicles being sold to the consuming public can only be conjectured at; but conspiracy with the oil industry seems to jump to mind—especially if one remembers when, between the wars, Ford Motor Company was saved from bankruptcy by the oil industry.

If we look for the promised "efficiency" from the fuel injectors if is impossible to find. In the USA the CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards since the early 1980's have recorded a virtually unchanged fuel economy in cars—it has vacillated from 24 mpg in 1982 to 27.5 mpg in 2009 and it has not changed for the past 20 years! Why the "most technologically advanced country" on the planet has not been able to increase its' CAFE standards more than 14.5% over the past 28 years is a mystery—unless you factor in the oil industry efforts to keep them suppressed. After all, with proper ratings of say 60+ mpg there would be lots less oil consumed and therefore lots less profits/lucre for the oil companies.

This brings us to the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, which will probably threaten the very life of the Atlantic Ocean before it is stopped. It is the same growth, growth, growth, touted by the Western World's leadership that has led to the "need" for "deep water drilling" and more & more oil available for the more and more cars that get consistently low mpg. This very same "growth" model was also the cause of the current economic/financial collapse in the Western World that began in 2008—in that particular setting this never ending growth model led its' participants into the area of personal greed (credit default swaps were too tiny to be tallied in 1998, but grew to over $50 trillion face value by 2008). This unquestioned acceptance of the unrestrained and unregulated growth model is easily spotted in every economics and business course taught at universities, it is part of every corporate shareholder's annual meeting, it is part of every contract negotiation between labor and management, it is part of our everyday parlance—"we will grow our relationship", "let's grow the business", "our sales will grow by . . .", "we will grow the economy", "production will grow by . . .", etc.

Instead of this scenario, had the sustainability model been part of the landscape then we would now have proper mpg for vehicles, eliminated the "need for deep water oil drilling", and avoided the financial/economic collapse of 2008.

While growth model proponents will utter a hue and cry about needed capital moving away from their grasp and everything grinding to a halt, I would respond the only group that will be harmed will be the upper 1% of the population. Recent data has shown that within the USA, the top 1% of the population control more wealth than the lower 95% of the population; and during the 1990's the middle 20% of the population had household income increase 9.4%, while the upper tier had theirs' increase by 160%.

And, how did the American system react to this data? In the next decade tax breaks were given to the rich! Therefore, the vast majority of the American population, as well as that of the other industrialized nations, will not notice any numbing side affect of adopting the sustainability model. Their lives will continue on their current course, while the rich will be the ones who will have most to lose, hence they will attempt to rouse the masses to their own selfish cause of more and more personal wealth accumulation. It's almost as though the rich think if they accumulate enough wealth then they can buy their way out of the mess they are creating!

BILL TOWNSEND, Accounting Professor Emeritus, Lagos

Response to Ms. Hobson

SIR, According to Valerie Hobson (Letters, 29 March) we poor bewildered heterosexuals are being obliged to accept that the world now has a third sex. That's a shame – it completely ruins one of my favourite old time music hall jokes:

"Are you married?"

"Yes,"

"Any children?"

"Yes, three. One of each." (Usually followed in those days by a raucous cry of "Boom Boom!").

RON LAVERY, By e-mail

Letters cont'd. on pg. 24

Portuguese for Beginners

LESSON 34

Regular verbs in -IR in the Present Simple

Verbs are important words in any sentence. They show the **action** or the **state of being** in the sentence. In Portuguese, there are basically two types: **regular** and **irregular** verbs.

Using "**ABRIR**", to say, let's now look at the formation of the ***Present Simple Tense***- "**Presente Simples do Indicativo**"- of a regular verb in -**IR**. To conjugate such a verb we need to know the **endings**, as follows:

Eu	abr	*o*	*abro*
Tu	abr	*es*	*abres*
Ele	abr	*e*	*abre*
Ela	abr	*e*	*abre*
Você	abr	*e (sing.)*	*abre*
Nós	abr	*imos*	*abrimos*
Eles	abr	*em*	*abrem*
Elas	abr	*em*	*abrem*
Vocês	abr	*em (plural)*	*abrem*

⇨ **Put the verbs in brackets in "Presente Simples do Indicativo".**

1. Os governos europeus ____ (**insistir**) em medidas austeras para controlar a crise e os cidadãos ____ (**cumprir**), muito contrariados e insatisfeitos, com as várias medidas de contenção.

2. O António ____ (**gerir**) alguns restaurantes na cidade. O restaurante chinês ____ (**reabrir**) na próxima semana.

3. Os espectadores ____ (**aplaudir**), muito entusiasmados, os actores da peça de teatro.

4. Tu ____ (**imprimir**) os mapas a cores?

5. *SINDICATOS NÃO* ____ (**desistir**) *DA LUTA!*

6. A que horas ____ (**partir**) o último autocarro para o centro da cidade?

7. Nós ____ (**resumir**) o texto com facilidade.

8. Eu ____ (**assistir**) com muito agrado a peças de teatro e a filmes de acção.

9. CARRO ____ (**colidir**) COM ELÉCTRICO

10. A que horas ____ (**abrir**) os bancos?

11. Os cães dos vizinhos ____ (**ganir**) muito.

12. A Câmara Municipal local ____ (**proibir**) a circulação automóvel no centro da cidade.

Please send your completed exercises with a **STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**, to me: Emília Rosendo at **The Portugal News** and I will return them corrected. **The Portugal News • Apartado 13 • 8401-901 Lagoa.**
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SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Answers next week.

Easy

	3		5				2	
8	5			3			4	9
		9	2					
5	4		7	1			8	
	6			5	3		7	4
					6	7		
2	1			9			3	8
	9				8		1	

Medium

					3	4		1
		4		7			8	
	7					2		
		7		8			2	
2				3				5
	1			4		3		
		6					1	
	4			9		8		
7		3	1					

Hard

						6		2
8				1		9		
	4		9		7			5
		7			8			
9								1
			3			7		
1			4		5		7	
		5		2				9
7		4						

Last weeks solutions:

5	4	8	7	6	9	2	1	3
7	6	2	8	3	1	4	5	9
1	3	9	5	2	4	7	8	6
3	2	6	9	8	5	1	7	4
9	7	4	2	1	3	5	6	8
8	1	5	6	4	7	3	9	2
4	5	7	3	9	8	6	2	1
2	8	1	4	7	6	9	3	5
6	9	3	1	5	2	8	4	7

5	7	2	3	9	6	4	1	8
6	9	8	2	1	4	7	5	3
4	3	1	5	8	7	6	9	2
9	6	7	8	5	3	1	2	4
1	2	3	4	6	9	5	8	7
8	5	4	1	7	2	3	6	9
7	1	9	6	4	8	2	3	5
3	8	6	7	2	5	9	4	1
2	4	5	9	3	1	8	7	6

4	2	8	6	3	1	9	7	5
7	9	1	8	5	2	6	3	4
6	3	5	7	9	4	1	2	8
5	4	9	1	8	7	2	6	3
1	6	2	3	4	9	8	5	7
3	8	7	2	6	5	4	9	1
8	7	4	5	2	6	3	1	9
2	1	3	9	7	8	5	4	6
9	5	6	4	1	3	7	8	2

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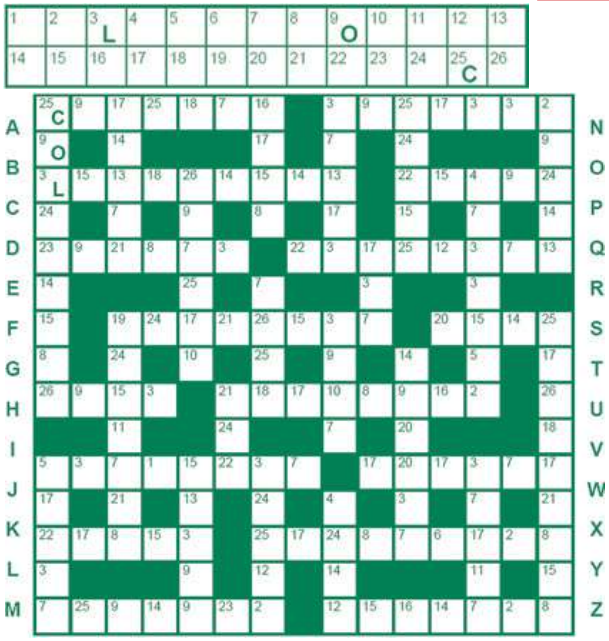
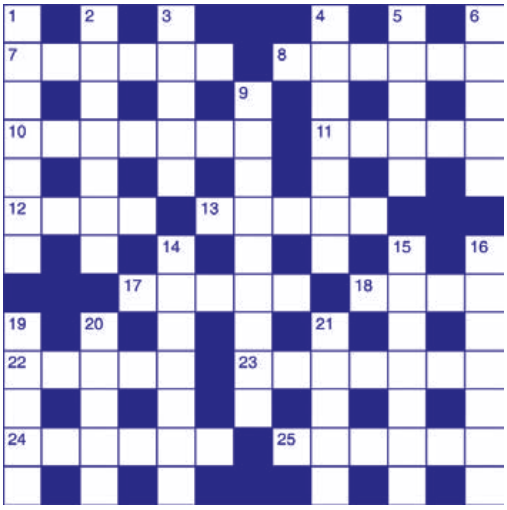
CODEWORD

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. Decipher the code to fill in the crossword. Three letters are already in place and the check-box and letters either side will help you keep track of progress.

(Right: Last week's solution)



PRIZE CROSSWORD 1063



ACROSS

7. Gate (6)
8. Crush (6)
10. Relief (7)
11. Quash (5)
12. Brink (4)
13. Sorcery (5)
17. Packing-case (5)
18. Carry (4)
22. Despondency (5)
23. Irksome (7)
24. Whole (6)
25. Chase (6)

DOWN

1. Boxed (7)
2. Forebode (7)
3. Morning (5)
4. Filthy (7)
5. Weak (5)
6. Offspring (5)
9. Lay waste (9)
14. First (7)
15. Compunction (7)
16. Urged (7)
19. Ornamental tag (5)
20. Plunder (5)
21. Hatred (5)

A €10 Algarve Book Cellar token will be awarded to the sender of the first correct solutionopened next Thursday. Solutions to: The Portugal News Crossword N° 1063, Apt. 13, 8401-901 Lagoa. Please be sure to enclose your name, address and phone number.

WORDSEARCH

Find the hidden words within the square. The word may start anywhere and go in any direction.

O	C	N	D	M	N	A	I	F	H	E	D	L	D	R
B	A	P	E	N	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	M	E	W
P	L	S	M	A	C	K	E	D	T	S	A	C	D	F
E	I	B	N	S	S	B	M	O	M	D	A	T	A	A
N	C	E	R	S	O	E	R	T	R	P	Q	D	N	H
R	O	S	E	B	D	M	Q	I	I	Y	Q	M	E	S
A	T	N	C	Y	D	W	D	T	L	I	N	U	R	A
G	K	I	N	T	N	L	A	A	P	O	I	V	G	W
E	D	A	O	T	E	L	T	O	S	A	Y	R	I	A
D	H	R	C	E	S	I	U	Y	N	T	R	N	V	P
Z	Q	T	I	J	S	O	K	K	M	H	V	T	D	R
G	N	I	H	S	A	W	O	O	M	E	I	K	S	A
O	A	Z	X	Z	Z	O	E	T	R	N	A	P	A	J
J	O	Q	N	A	M	O	R	S	J	S	C	L	K	R
X	Q	X	O	V	I	C	E	S	A	E	P	S	C	U

MADRID, CALICO, CONCERN, ITALY, EASE, ROMAN, AWASH, GRENADE, TRAINS, ATHENS, SMACKED, ODDNESS, VICES, CAPITAL, TOKYO, ENCOURAGE, WASHING, ENRAGED, INVERSE, PARTS, JAPAN, JETTY

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

See if you can find 6 differences between the two photos.

Last week's solutions
Across: 1 Event; 4 Hateful; 8 Thicken; 9 Owing; 10 Bred; 11 Brooklet; 13 Trip; 14 Eggs; 16 Harmless; 17 Drug; 20 Emend; 21 Elector; 22 Tatters; 23 Flood.
Down: 1 Establishment; 2 Elite; 3 Take; 4 Hungry; 5 Thorough; 6 Foibles; 7 Light-fingered; 12 Dislodge; 13 Torment; 15 Assess; 18 Ratio; 19 Serf.
Last weeks winner:Mrs Lesley Hoyte, Loulé

Last week's solution:

Rotary Club visits Heidelberg

Rotarians and friends of the Almancil International Rotary Club recently visited Heidelberg to make contact and develop relationships with two German Rotary clubs.

The trip was organised by Rotarian Uschi Kuhn who's son, the in-coming Mayor of Leimen, arranged for a welcoming evening reception for the group in the Town Hall. Gifts and greetings were exchanged between the Mayor and AIRC and material provided by the Loulé Council.

After a boat trip, the group enjoyed a tram ride up to Heidelberg Castle which offers breathtaking views over the town and river. Later they met up with the Rotary Club of Heidelberg, who had arranged an evening visit to sample the extensive wines and fine food laid on by the famous Adam Muller Winery. A memorable evening of Rotary friendship and fellowship!

The town of Schwetzingen is renowned for it's asparagus and everyone agreed it deserved its title after a delicious lunch, hosted by the local Rotary Club which followed a visit to the famous Schwetzingen castle.

Uschi said she was delighted with the warm welcome and new friendships developed with the Rotary Club of Schwetzingen and AIRC were hoping to welcome the German club to the Algarve, next Spring. Asparagus would also be welcome!

There are now three English speaking International Rotary clubs in the Algarve, Almancil, Estoi Palace, Algarve West and Porches. The primary objective of a Rotary club is to raise funds for charities and institutions, locally and internationally, but in an atmosphere of friendship and fellowship. For more information e-mail: secretary@rotaryalmancil.org

Bowls Algarve Summer League - 27th May matches

Amendoeira hosted round four of the Summer League and it was all change at the top. Alvor Larks lost their unbeaten record and had their wings clipped by Tavira, who ran out winners by 33-29, earning nine points to one. Meanwhile the Alvor Kestrels took full advantage, beating PDF Pirates by 38-28 and taking eight points against two. This was enough to topple the Larks from the top perch in the league table. Alvor Doves also continued their run of good form and crept closer to the top two by beating an in form Valverde team also looking for silverware, by 39-32. Doves taking eight points and Valverde two.

In the afternoon session, Amendoeira played Pedras Stones and Alvor Eagles played the ABC Cats. Amendoeira just failed to make home advantage count, losing narrowly to the Cats by 40-36 and by six points to four. ABC Cats earned their first win of the season with a very good win over the Eagles by 36-32 and seven points to three.

Kestrels move to the top of the table on 32 points, whilst the Larks slip to second on 30 points. Valverde cling on to third spot, despite losing today and have 24 points. Doves are fourth on 22 points, Tavira also move upward and are now fifth with 20 points. Pedras are on 18, whilst Amendoeira and Eagles both have 15 points. Cats move off the bottom thanks to their win today and now have 13 points, just ahead of the Pirates with 11.

The next series of matches is at Alvor, where Amendoeira play the Cats, Doves take on the Pirates and the Eagles play Tavira – all these games in the morning. In the afternoon Larks play Valverde, whilst Pedras take on the Kestrels.

Alan Clarke – League Director

Algarve Senior Bikers Group

Are there any senior bikers in the Algarve who would be interested in joining us for the occasional leisurely day out? Possibly for lunch or visits to places of interest. Attending motorcycle, car related, and other local events. Maybe even just get together for a coffee and a natter once a month.

If you like the idea just phone or e-mail, or why not take a ride out to the Bacchus Bar at Porches Pottery on the EN125 between Porches roundabout and the International School on Saturday, June 12' between 1 lam and 3pm to have a coffee and a chat about joining this new group. Contact: David Shirley, e-mail: davethemoto@yahoo.com, tel. 282 444061 or Mob. 918421613.

David Shirley

Networking in the Central Algarve

Algarve Women's Business Network is examining Networking and making useful business connections over a breakfast meeting at the Lemon Tree Restaurant in the centre of Almancil on Wed 9th June. Registration will begin at 9.15 with coffee and pastries (5€) being served then at 9.45 those attending will introduce themselves and their organistion to the rest of the group. A lead discussion will look at ways to expand your own Network and contacts, which is so vital in this economic climate. So whether you are looking for new customers or need to spread the word about a fantastic product, use this event to move your business forward fast.

The meeting is open to all enterprising women in the Algarve. Please call Linda on 916881170 or e-mail: casadouglas@mail.telepac.pt, to reserve a place.

Luiz Oosterbeck to speak to Algarve Archeology Association

Regarding the AAA lecture held on **8th June** (please note change of day due to public holiday), the first lecture of the day will be held at the Museum of Sao Braz at 2.30pm. Lunch is arranged beforehand at a local restaurant.

The second lecture of the day will be held at the Convento de Sao Jose, Lagoa at 6.30 pm. Dinner is arranged in a local restaurant after the lecture.

The guest speaker is Luiz Oosterbeck on 'Evidence of Complexities of Prehistoric Farming Societies in Brazil'. European approaches to Southern America have been largely focused in the Major Meso-American and Andean civilisations.

Yet Brazil and America at the dawn of the XVI century were the stage for numerous and different human groups. The talk will put forward evidence of the complexities of these groups.

Luiz Oosterbeck is a graduate in history, Lisbon. PhD in Archaeology, London and Porto. Professor at the Institute Politecnico de Tomar, guest lecturer at several universities throughout Europe and Brazil, Director of IPT's International Relations Bureau, Secretary General of the International Union for Pre-Historic and Proto-Historic sciences, Vice-President of HERITY-International, member of the Science and Society Committee of CYTED and author of circa 20 books and 200 papers.

Luiz Oosterbeck is a very popular speaker at our meetings and we are priviledged to hear from him again.

Tel. Maxine on 917 267 948 for more information.

www.theportugalnews.com

Robbins wins TOFFS competition at Qta. do Peru

Brejos de Azeitão, 31 May 2010 - Edward Robbins won the TOFFS (The Old Fogeys Friendly Society) competition at the Qta. do Peru today in the first summer-like heat, with 32 Stableford points. This year's TOFFS Captain, Robbins withstood both the heat and some concern that he was "cooking the books," scoring a clear advantage over last month's winner Henk Vaandrager and his 30 points. Antonio Vieira was third. The strong sun and the low handicap settings proved too much of a challenge for the remaining participants. The course was delightfully empty, and the low greens fees that result from the expanded CNIG (Inter-club Card) promotion added to the pleasure of play on Peru's lovely layout.

The TOFFS, first organized in 1999, meet about six times a year to visit Lisbon-area golf courses away from the members's base at Estoril.

TOFFS, including winner Robbins with hat and trophy, show their flexibility after a restorative lunch.

Bike rides

Saturday, 5th June: Bike Ride - Starting at Santa Caterina de Fonta de Bispo. Park wherever you can near to the centre of the village, we will meet by the church. Meet at 09.45 for a 10.00 start A ride of around 35 km on challenging and hilly terrain.

Sunday, 6th June: Bike Ride - Starting in Vilamoura . Meet at the large car park on the western side of the marina, between the marina and lake resort .Meet at 09.45 am for a 10.00 start. A mostly flat and gentle ride of around 35km on a mixture of dirt tracks and tarmac roads.

Wednesday, 9th June: Bike Ride - Starting at Oscars in Vilasol. Meet at 6.20 pm for a 6.30 start. This will be a mostly flat ride of around 25km on a mixture of tarmac and dirt track roads.

Thursday, 10th June: Bike Ride - Alcantarilha - Starting at Aldi car park. Meet at 09.45 for a 10.00 start. This will be an undulating ride of around 35 km on a mixture of tarmac and dirt track roads.

For more information call Paul Beesley on 913226954 or e.mail: paul.beesley@sapo.pt or visit 'Algarve Bike Rides' on Facebook.

letters to the editor

Cont'd. from pg. 22

A safer and happier Portugal

SIR, Regarding the email from the person listing the crimes in Faro and Albufeira. It is indeed a sorry state of affairs for the Algarve to become so crime ridden. That people refuse to report these crimes because "the police/judges will not help" beggars belief. Firstly, if you don't report crime then in a way you are almost encouraging these criminals. Also, if you don't report crime then the crime figures are not true. A lot of Portuguese people here on the Algarve on holiday, are quite unaware of what is happening. They should know! I have read and heard that the police, at ground level, are poorly educated, not well trained and paid very low wages. So one can assume a certain amount of poor quality response. But to be fair, if they don't know about a crime, how can they respond. It is up to individuals to keep on reporting matters, not just writing to ex-pat newspapers and complaining about it! This is a typical British attitude, to complain but not to be pro-active. You ask "why can't the government use the television to teach people how to achieve a safer and happier Portugal?" But crime is a police matter, and citizens have a duty to report crime, so that maybe the next person will also be bolder.

RUTH, Armacão de Pêra

A day at the races - but at night!

Enjoying 'a day at the races'!

Castelo de Sonhos are holding a race night at the old Cine Theatre in Silves on 26th June at 7.30pm. All the fun and excitement without stepping onto the turf!

Tickets are €10 to include a buffet. You can become a race horse owner on the night or when you purchase your ticket. These are available from Deanne on 282 445902 or Chris on 282 322355 or Celia on 282 332665.

All proceeds will go to Castelo de Sonhos.

Also for 'dates for your diary', we are organising a 60's and 70's music night with 3 course meal on 24th July at Restaurant Recanto dos Mouros in Silves. Music from Just John.

Ca@sa music quiz raises money for Madrugada

On Thursday 27th May the Ca@sa Internet & Sports Bar in Almancil held a charity music quiz hosted by Shirley Dunne, in aid of raising money for the exceptional Madrugada charity. More than €600 was raised to put towards the creation of a hospice in the Algarve.

Madrugada's overall aim is to support people with life limiting illness and enable them to gain optimum benefit from their treatment by strengthening their general health and well being, thereby maximizing quality of life.

It is estimated €3,000,000 is needed to build and equip a day care and residential centre, so every bit counts. For further details on how to contribute or help Madrugada, see website: www.madrugada-portugal.com.

Handicap Associations celebrate 10th anniversary

On May 22nd, 2010, various handicap associations from across the Algarve, including NECI, APEXA and EXISTIR, held their 10th annual party, held to raise awareness regarding the extraordinary work these organisations provide.

Dunas Douradas Beach Club offered their fabulous facilities so that 80 youngsters, many in wheel chairs, could enjoy a very special day.

They swam in the pool, sang along to Karaoke and live music, and had photos taken. The clown *Palhaça Silvia* was a great success and the bouncy castle was something many had not experience before. Around 50 helpers were needed to make this event possible and safe.

Dunas Douradas Beach Club also provided a spectacular lunch for over 100 people who supported the event by buying articles that the children had made by hand plus raffle tickets.

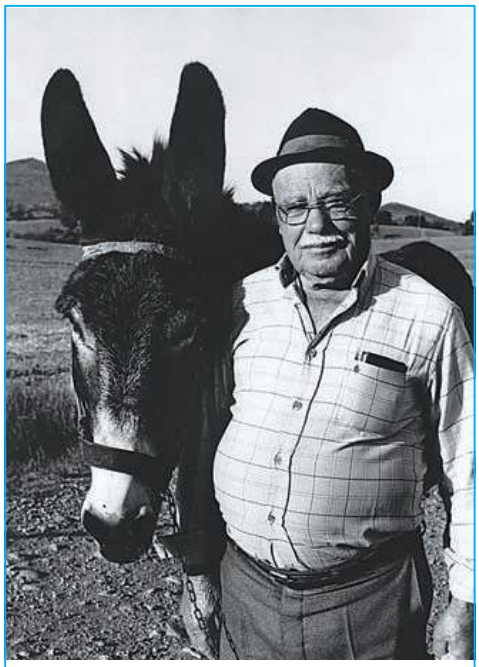
The event was created to raise awareness about these valuable organisations, who work behind the scenes to make the lives of these young people better.

If you want to bring some joy to the lives of handicapped or disadvantaged in the Algarve, contact ACCA representative Gwenda Daud on: mdaud@mail.telepac.pt.

The ACCA would like to extend "many, many thanks to all the contributors for giving their time and efforts to support this event".

Handicapped children were given a chance to get a feel of what it is like being behind the wheel of an Algarve businessman's Ferrari.

Monica Curtin Photographic Exhibition



An example of Monica Curtin's work.

Monica Curtin is holding an exhibition of her work at the Centro de Artes in Sines until 26th. June. She hopes as many people as possible will come and enjoy all that she has put together. The show is in two huge, amazing spaces, which have won architectural awards, and consists of lots of black and white photographs, as well as installations. Monica says, "It is all about the Alentejo, my way of seeing it and my connection to it." To see some of her work go to: www.centrodeartesdesines.com.pt, where there is also more info. about her exhibition.

All community news is welcome on this page. If you are involved in a local non-profit making project or have raised money for charity we would like to hear from you. Please send your stories to copy@theportugalnews.com

One day, one experience of a lifetime!

This is what's on offer from Algarve Racing as they launch their new high adrenaline experience for power-hungry petrol heads on June 5th at Vale do Lobo.

Climb aboard a fabulous Robinson 44 helicopter for a flight along the coast before landing at the Autódromo do Algarve for 2 high speed laps in a superb track car in the hands of a professional instructor. A luxury limousine then whisks you to the marina where you board a stunning powerboat for a high speed trip along the magnificent coastline.

The Ultimate Horsepower Experience gives you the chance to sample these fast and furious machines in style and sample over 1000 horsepower – all in one day! Alternatively you can upgrade to the wonderful Sunseeker Portofino yacht, boost the horsepower to over 2000 and bring your friends and family on board as well!

To celebrate this and the formation of a new partnership with Vale do Lobo, Algarve Racing are holding an open day on June 5th at Vale do Lobo Parque do Golfe, providing an opportunity to get up close to some fabulous machinery including a NASCAR racing car, Honda CBR racing bike, Ginetta race car, racing karts, Crownline 425 hp powerboat, R44 helicopter and other exotic cars. Algarve Racing's team of experts and racing drivers will be on hand to explain these amazing machines and give you more details about how you can experience them for yourself.

This is also the day of the Wolf Valley Charity's Golf and Family Event where in addition to a major golf competition there will be stalls and entertainment to raise money for many local causes. We shall be holding a raffle in aid of this fund, with a range of exciting Algarve Racing experiences to be won.

Algarve Racing is based at the Autodromo do Algarve and provides the ultimate VIP motorsport experience for all world class motor-racing events as well as driving, passenger and track day experiences. Contacts: Nick Jones 282 760 548, 916 506 424, www.algarveracing.info or e-mail: info@algarveracing.info

A Sunseeker powerboat.

afpop on the road

afpop – Portugal's largest Foreign Residents' Association's Road Show will be stopping at Jardim Vista Landscape Centre in Almancil. Was your garden damaged by the rains over winter? Do you have a small space that you want to do something with? Do you want free, expert advice on garden or patio design? On **Wednesday, 9th June** from 11.30am to 4pm the staff at Jardim Vista will be on hand to answer questions and give advice on all matters related to gardens and patios - how to get the most from them and offering affordable solutions to fit all pockets. To welcome visitors Jardim Vista will be giving away free gifts to all on the day and will also be providing drinks to enjoy in the garden.

But there's more – we are delighted to announce that the friendly experts from Zonda – the Outdoor Living Specialists – will also be there with special offers on their range of barbeques, outdoor furniture, awnings and hot-tubs and will be demonstrating their barbeques, providing visitors with a snack to accompany the eshments on offer and also giving advice on how to prepare and cook food for Barbeques, to help you get the most from your summer fun.

If that's not enough – ***afpop*** will be offering a **'Two for One'** on new Memberships. Every new member who joins at the Road Show will automatically have their spouse or partner added as second member FREE OF CHARGE. To find out more about ***afpop*** and the benefits of joining 6,000 members come along and see us next Wednesday, 9th June, at the Jardim Vista next to Almancil's International School on the road between Almancil and Quinta do Lagoa. If you are a past Member and would like to rejoin, we will waive the joining fee on the day and save you even more money in the process. Simply provide confirmation of your previous membership.

optimus

VISIT US ON STAND 140 AT THE INTERNATIONAL ALGARVE FAIR IN LAGOA ON 5 / 6 JUNE

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3 JUN-9 JUN

1
A Nightmare on Elm Street
Jacki Earle Haley, Kellan Lutz
(13.15 Sat & Sun) 15.25-17.40-22.00 (00.35 Fri & Sat)
I Love You Phillip Morris
Jim Carrey, Ewan McGregor
19.45
The Princess and the Frog
Animation PV - (10.40 Sat & Sun)
2
The Bad Lieutenant
Nicolas Cage, Eva Mendes
16.15-21.00 (23.45 Fri & Sat)
Youth in Revolt
Michael Cera, Jean Smart
14.10-18.55
3
Robin Hood
Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett
(13.25 Sat & Sun) 16.20-18.15-21.10 (00.10 Fri & Sat)
How to Train Your Dragon
Animation PV
(10.20 Sat)
Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
Animation PV - (10.20 Sun)
4
Prince of Persia
Jake Gyllenhaal, Gemma Arterton
(11.00 Sat & Sun) 14.15-16.45-19.20-21.50 (00.20 Fri & Sat)
5
Sex and the City 2
Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis
(12.30 Sat & Sun) 15.30-18.30-21.30 (00.25 Fri & Sat)
6
Iron Man 2
Robert Downey Jr, Don Cheadle
(13.10 Sat & Sun) 16.00-21.40 (00.30 Fri & Sat)
The Bounty Hunter
Gerard Butler, Jennifer Aniston
18.50
7
StreetDance
Nichola Burley, Richard Winsor
(12.15 Sat & Sun) 14.30-16.50-19.05-21.20 (23.40 Fri & Sat)
8
City Island
Andy Garcia, Julianna Margulies
15.00-17.15-19.30-21.45 (0.15 Fri & Sat)
Urmel aus dem Eis - Animation PV
(10.25-12.30 Sat & Sun)
9
Astro Boy - Animation PV
(10.35-12.45 Sat & Sun) 14.55-17.05-19.15
Away We Go
John Krasinski, Maya Rudolph
21.35 (23.50 Fri & Sat)

CASTELLO LOPES CINEMAS ALGARVESHOPPING TEL: 707 220 220

3 JUN-9 JUN

1
Greenberg
Ben Stiller, Rhys Ifans
13.15-16.00-18.40-21.35 (0.00 Fri & Sat)
2
StreetDance 3D
Nichola Burley, Richard Winsor
12.55-15.00-17.10-19.20-21.40 (00.05 Fri & Sat)
3
Iron Man 2
Robert Downey Jr, Don Cheadle
13.00-15.30-18.00-21.00 (23.30 Fri & Sat)
4
A Nightmare on Elm Street
Jacki Earle Haley, Kellan Lutz
13.20-16.20-19.00-21.45 (23.55 Fri & Sat)
5
How to Train Your Dragon 3D
Animation PV
13.30-16.10-18.50
The Bounty Hunter
Gerard Butler, Jennifer Aniston
21.10 (23.40 Fri & Sat)
6
Prince of Persia
Jake Gyllenhaal, Gemma Arterton
13.10-15.50-18.20-21.20 (23.50 Fri & Sat)
7
Sex and the City 2
Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis
12.45-15.40-18.35-21.30 (00.25 Fri & Sat)
8
Sex and the City 2
Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis
12.45-15.40-18.35-21.30 (00.25 Fri & Sat)
9
Robin Hood
Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett
12.50-15.35-18.25-21.15 (00.10 Fri & Sat)

CASTELLO LOPES CINEMAS PORTIMÃO TEL: 707 220 220

3 JUN-9 JUN

1
Sex and the City 2
Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis
12.40-15.30-18.35-21.30 (00.30 Fri & Sat)
2
A Nightmare on Elm Street
Jacki Earle Haley, Kellan Lutz
13.30-16.10-19.00-22.00 (00.10 Fri & Sat)
3
Urmel aus dem Eis
Animation PV
13.20-15.20-17.20-19.20
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus
Heath Ledger, Johnny Depp
21.50 (00.20 Fri & Sat)
4
The Bounty Hunter
Gerard Butler, Jennifer Aniston
13.10-16.00-18.50-21.20 (23.50 Fri & Sat)
5
Robin Hood
Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett
12.50-15.35-18.25-21.10 (00.00 Fri & Sat)
6
Prince of Persia
Jake Gyllenhaal, Gemma Arterton
13.00-15.50-18.40-21.40 (0.05 Fri & Sat)

Castello Lopes Cinemas
Tel: 707 220 220
www.castellolopescinemas.com

UCI Cinemas
Tel: 707 23 22 21
www.uciportugal.pt

Zon Lusomundo Cinemas
Tel: 707 24 63 62
www.zonlusomundo.pt

OV = Original Version
PV = Portuguese Version

Film Classification
Sex and the City 2 - M/16
Astro Boy - M/4
Prince of Persia - M/12
StreetDance 3D - M/12
A Nightmare on Elm Street - M/16
The Bad Lieutenant - M/12
Robin Hood - M/12
Iron Man 2 - M/12
I Love You Phillip Morris - M/12
Clash of the Titans - M/12
Date Night - M/12
How to Train Your Dragon - M/6

M/4 - Four years and over
M/6 - Six years and over
M/12 - 12 years and over
M/16 - 16 years and over
M/18 - 18 years and over

Title: Sex and the City 2
Genre: Comedy | Drama | Romance
Stars: Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis, Cynthia Nixon, Kim Cattrall
Synopsis: The fun, the fashion, the friendship: *Sex and the City 2* brings it all back and more as Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte and Miranda take another bite out of The Big Apple - and beyond - carrying on with their busy lives and loves in a sequel that truly sparkles.
What happens after you say "I do"? Life is everything the ladies ever wished it to be, but it wouldn't be *Sex and the City* if life didn't hold a few more surprises... this time in the form of a glamorous, sun-drenched adventure that whisks the women away from New York to one of the most luxurious, exotic and vivid places on earth, where the party never ends and there's something mysterious around every corner. It's an escape that comes exactly at the right moment for the four friends, who are finding themselves in - and fighting against - the traditional roles of marriage, motherhood and more. After all, sometimes you just have to get away with the girls.

ASTRO BOY

Title: Astro Boy
Genre: Animation | Action | Family | Sci-Fi
Voices: Freddie Highmore, Kristen Bell, Samuel L. Jackson, Nicolas Cage, Charlize Theron
Synopsis: Based on the long-running Japanese series of the same name by Osamu Tezuka. Set in futuristic Metro City, *Astro Boy* is about a young robot with incredible powers created by a brilliant scientist named Tenma. Powered by positive blue energy, Astro Boy is endowed with super strength, x-ray vision, unbelievable speed and the ability to fly.
Embarking on a journey in search of acceptance, Astro Boy encounters many colourful characters along the way. Through his adventures, he experiences the joys and emotions of being human, and gains the strength to embrace his destiny and understand what it takes to be a hero.

NORTH

Daily

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CALDAS DA RAINHA
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GUARDA
Museu Municipal de Arte Moderna Abel Manta - The collection includes works by Carlos Botelho, Júlio Resende, Menez, Paula Rego, Vespeiro, António Dacosta and many others - Open: Tuesday to Sunday from 10h00 to 12h30 and from 14h00 to 17h00 - Free entrance - Rua Direita, 45, Gouveia - T. 238 493 648

PORTO
Casa da Música - Guided visits from Mon-Sun: 10h30; 11h30; 12h30; 15h00; 16h00; 17h00; 18h00 - Tickets can be bought until 10 minutes before visit - Price: €2; Free for children under 12 - T. 220 120 214 - Avenida da Boavista, 604-610 - www.casadamusica.com

PORTO
Serralves Foundation - Visits to the exhibitions - Sat: 17h-20h; Sun: 12h-13h - to the architectonic spaces (museum & Casa de Serralves) Sun: 15h-16h - Visits to the park; Sun: 11h-12h - Visits are free on the purchase of an entrance ticket to the museum - Location: Rua D. João de Castro, 210 - T. 226 156 584 -www.serralves.pt

Until June 6

GUARDA
Minigolf at Urban Park 'Rio Diz' (next to the children's playground) - 9 courses for all who want to try this game

Until June 12

GUIMARÃES
Theatre Festival at Centro Cultural Vila Flor in comemmoration of Gil Vicente, the great Portuguese playwriter - The Gil Vicente Festival will include many of Gil Vicente's plays - - Av. D. Afonso Henriques, 701 - Ts. 253 424 700 / 253 424 700 / 916 329 543 - www.ccvf.pt

Until June 13

PORTO
Exhibition by Lourdes Castro and Manuel Zimbro: À Luz da Sombra' (Shadow Light) - Serralves Museum - Rua D. João de Castro, 210 - T. 226 156 584

June 20

PORTO
Promenade Concert performing Mendelssohn's Concert for Violin and Orchestra - 11h30 - Coliseu do Porto - Rua Passos Manuel, nº 137 - T. 223 394 940 - Tickets: See bottom page

Until June 27

GUIMARÃES
Exhibition by Fernando Brito - Palácio Vila Flor- Price: €1 (€0.50 w/ discount) - Av. D. Afonso Henriques, 701 - T. 253 424 700 - www.ccvf.pt

Until June 30

VILA REAL
Exhibition 'Roman women in the museum's coins' - Museu de Arqueologia e Numismática de Vila Real - 259 320 340

July 6

PORTO
Concert by Melody Gardot promoting her album 'My One and Only Thrill' at Sala Suggia of Casa da Música - 21h30 - Avenida da Boavista, nº 604-610 - T. 220 120 214

July 16

VILA NOVA DE GAIA
Placebo in concert - Festival Marés Vivas '10 - Tickets: See info at bottom of page

www.theportugalnews.com

CENTRE

Daily

CASCAIS
Cascais Cultural Centre - Concerts, shows, exhibitions, & other events. - shops, coffee shop & terrace - Open: 10h00-18h00 (Closed Mon) - Av. Rei Humberto II de Itália - T. 214 848 900

CASCAIS
Sea Museum 'Rei D. Carlos' - Rua Júlio Pereira de Mello - 10h00-19h00; closed Mon & holidays - T. 214 825 400

ESTORIL
Casino Estoril - Praça José Teodoro dos Santos - T. 214 667 700 - Info.estoril@estoril-sol.com

LISBON
Mercado da Ribeira - On the riverfront, this popular market is the Coolest Place in Town - Crafts, events, gastronomy • Av. 24 de Julho

LISBON
National Coach Museum - Set in a 17th century riding school, with a varied collection of royal coaches, uniforms and portraits of the royal family - Open from 10h00 to 17h30 (Closed Mondays) and public holidays) - Praça Afonso de Albuquerque - T. 213610850

LISBON
Oceanarium - Spectacular design by Peter Chermayeff, it is one of Europe's biggest oceanarium - Park of Nations - 10h00 to 18h00 - T. 218 917 002

LISBON
Influxcontemporary - A museum dedicated to African Contemporary Art - Open from Wednesday to Saturday from 14h00 to 19h00 - Rua Fernando Vaz, 20B - T. 918 501 234 - iwww.influxcontemporary.com

SANTARÉM
Visit the Casa-Museu Braamcamp Freire on Rua Braamcamp Freire - T. 243 304 480/1

Until June 12

LISBON
Paintings by Isabelle Faria - Galeria 111 - Rua Dr. João Soares, 5B - 217 819 907 - www.111.pt

Until June 13

LISBON
Exhibition by Catarina Dias and Gabriela Albergaria - Museu da Cidade - Campo Grande, 245 - 217 513 200

Until June 21

LISBON
Exhibition by Pierre Coulibeuf 'Inside the labyrinth' - Museu Colecção Berardo, Arte Moderna e Contemporânea - Praça do Império - 213 612 878

Until June 27

ALMADA
Paiting Exhibition by Duarte Geraldes - Teatro Municipal de Almada - Av. Prof. Egas Moniz - T. 212 739 360

Until Jun 30

LISBON
Lisbon Festivities '10: Street Animation! - Street animation and dancing throughout the city - Pick up a programme at the Lisbon City Hall.

Until August 8

LISBON
Paintings and Watercolours Exhibition by Constant Le Breton (1895-1985) - More than sixty works by the French painter can be seen for the first time in Portugal in this monographic exhibition - Gallery of Temporary Exhibitions on the main building, first floor - Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation - Av. de Berna, 45-A - T. 217 823 000

Until Sep 19

LISBON
Exhibition by the Brazilian brothers Gustavo and Otávio Pandolfo known as Os Gémeos (The Twins) 'For who lives there, the sky is there' - Museu Colecção Berardo, Arte Moderna e Contemporânea - Praça do Império - T. 213 612 878

ALGÉS
Exhibitions 'Graça Morais' and 'Por Paris' at Centro de Arte Manuel de Brito at Palácio dos Anjos - 11h30 - 18h00 (11h30-24h00 last Friday each month) - Alameda Hermano Patrone - T. 214 111 400

SOUTH

Daily

LAGOS
Charity Shop in Amádena
Charity Shop in what was old supermarket on the square past 'Brody' and 'O Poço' restaurants - LAPS - Lagos Animal Protection Society - T. 282 687 334

Every Wed & Thu

SILVES
Exhibition of artwork by Hilary Cunningham - Vivenda Rosal Pedreira - Watercolour, pen ink & wash, oil & pastel. Prior to visit, please call 282 332 190 or 917 169 053

June 5

LAGOA
Orquestra do Algarve and Joana Amendoeira will perform on the Municipal Auditorium Square at 22h00 - T. 282 380 473

SÃO BRÁS DE ALPORTEL
Theatre: Beggars' Thruppence - A play with music from Aperitivo Performance Group - 19h30 - Museu do Trajo - T. 966 329 073

June 5 & 6

SILVES
Sat 5th: Mo Jazz at 20h30 - **Sun 6th:** Amerika Libre Salsa Band at 15h00 - Café Inglês - T. 282 442 585

Until June 9

MONCHIQUE
Exhibition by São Nunes 'In Memoriam' at the Galeria Santo António - Times: Tue: 12h-19h, Wed-Fri & Sun: 12h-16h - Ts. 282 913 130 / 925 004 051 - www.artealgarve.net

VILA REAL DE ST° ANTÓNIO
End of Year Recital by the V. R.S.A. Regional Conservatory - 21h00

June 11

LAGOS
Concert by Rui Mourinho and the Orquestra do Algarve - Elegiac for guitat and Orchestra from Leo Brouwer - 21h30 - Cultural Centre - T. 282 770 450

June 11 & 12

SÃO BARTOLOMEU DE MESSINES
Theatre: Beggars' Thruppence - A play with music from Aperitivo Performance Group - 20h00 - Sociedade De Instrução E Recreio Messinense - T. 966 329 073

Until June 13

ÉVORA
Exhibition 'Oriental Weapons. Rituals of Power' - Jorge Caravana's Collection – Évora Museum - T. 266 702 604

PADERNE
Exhibition 'From Russia with dove' by Svetlana Kurmaz f - Galeria Corte-Real, Bistro des Z'Artes (Open for dinner every night except Tuesday), 19h00 until 22.30; 919 407 366) - Galeria Corte-Real is signposted from Boliqueime, Ferreiras and Paderne - open from: Thu-Sun, 11h00-17h00 - Ts. 918 980 199 or 912 737 762

Until 15

SÃO BRÁS DE ALPORTEL
Painting Exhibition by Damásio José Rafael at Galeria Municipal - Avenida da Liberdade - T. 289 840 000

Until June 18

LOULÉ
Painting Exhibition 'Pangloss and Optimism' by Christine Henry - Art Gallery Convento Espírito Santo - T. 289 400 684

TAVIRA
Exhibition 'City and Rural Worlds' - Tavira Municipal Museum / Galeria Palace - T. 281 320 540

Jun 19 to Jul 18

PADERNE
Exhibition 'An Exuberant Sense of Freedom' is on display at Galeria Corte Real - To get there: From the protected village of Paderne follow the signs 'Corte-Real' - The gallery is open Thu through Sun from 11h00 to 17h00 TM: 912 737 762 / 918 980 199 - www.corterealarte.com

June 20

LAGOS
Youth Choirs - Cultural Centre Patio - 21h30 - T. 282 770 450

Until June 24

ALMANCIL
Painting Exhibition by the renowned Spanish artist Juan Martinez at Centro Cultural São Lourenço - T. 289 395 475 - ccsl@iol.pt

Until June 25

SINES
Exhibition of the Sines Museum archaeologic collections - Sines Museum - Organization: Museu de Sines - T. 269 632 237 - www.sines.pt

Until June 30

LAGOA
Exhibition by Willem Sneijers - Convento S. José - Rua Joaquim Eugénio Júdice - T. 282 380 434

June 30

ALMANCIL
Piano Concert by Pal Lindtner Eide - São Lourenço Cultural Centre - 19h30 - T. 289 395 475

Until July 31

SERPA
Exhibition 'Relógios mecânicos de 1910 a 1970' (Mechanical Clocks from 1910 to 1970) – Museu do Relógio (Clock Museum) - T. 284 543 194

Until September 29

ESTÓI
Exhibition by René Bertholo - Roman Ruins of Milreu

December 10

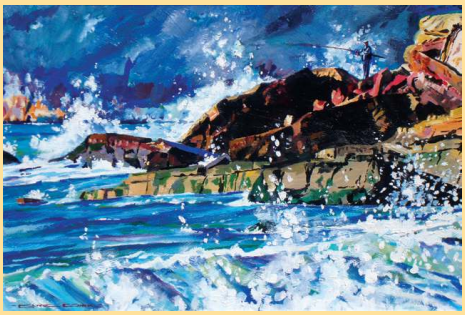
LISBON
Lady Gaga on her 'Monster Ball Tour' - 20h30 - Pavilhão Atlântico - Book now! - PDM TRAVEL - Rua Vitor Costa e Silva 15 Loja F, 8600-764 Lagos - T. 282 782 078 - info@pdm-travel.com

Until December 30

SINES
Exhibition 'O Séc. XX em Sines: uma geografia da memória' (The 20th Century in Sines: a memory geography) - Sines Museum de Sines - Organization: Museu de Sines - 269 632 237 - www.sines.pt

www.theportugalnews.com

PREVIEW



June 5 to July 3 - Exhibition of Watercolour and Oil Paintings by Clive Cook at Cachoa Restaurant on Quatro Estradas, at Luz, Lagos - Tel: For viewing and Restaurant times 282 782 822 - Mobile: 916 720 981 - www.clivecookpaintings.com

Until July 1 - Painting Exhibition 'things get damaged, things get broken' by Paulo Guerreiro - Chá D'Arte in Loulé - Tea Room and Art Gallery - D. Pedro I Square, Ground Floor, nº 5-6 - It will also be on display during the MED Festival

June 15 - Concert by the Algarve Orchestra conducted by Alexandre Delgado and Baritone Soloist Luís Rodrigues - The concert is included in the Educational Series of Concerts dedicated to the School Community at 10h30 at Teatro das Figuras in Faro - Free entrance (reservations required) - T. 289 888 110

June 7 to July 3 - Exhibition 'Bridging the gap between Visual Arts, Architecture and Interior Design' by António Dias Ribeiro - Governo Civil Castelo Branco - Monday to Friday from 14h00 to 18h00 - www.adr-designart.com

For more events, see our Club and Community Pages - pp26-27 and our Classifieds - pp 58-62

Events may be cancelled, delayed or fail to live up to their billing. Send us your events to copy@theportugalnews.com by Tuesday before publication.

TICKETS: Most tickets are available at FNAC and Worten outlets across the country, ATM machines, Abreu agencies, El Corte Inglès, Casa Viola, Ticketline or at the event itself on the night.
Websites: www.pavilhaoatlantico.pt / www.ticketline.pt / www.blueticket.pt / Phone numbers: Ticketline 707 234 234 / 707 780 000

It's this weekend!

The International Algarve Fair is now firmly established on the Algarve calendar as the annual event that the foreign community waits for with eager anticipation. This weekend, at the Fatacil showground in Lagoa, visitors will find hundreds of international and local businesses and products, from the region's leading companies to eclectic handicraft artisans selling their wares. There will also be day-long entertainment, a diverse range of eateries and watering-holes, live demonstrations, a wine show, a dog show, fabulous give-away prizes, and so much more! So don't sit at home wondering what to do with your weekend, visit the International Algarve Fair this weekend – it's where all the Algarve meets!

Painstakingly carved from the idea of providing a fun day out for all the family, based on the tried and tested concept of a traditional country fête, organisers of the International Algarve Fair have, over recent years, given their all to provide a leisurely, interesting and exciting day out for visitors of any age.

This year more than ever they have achieved their mission by outdoing all previous events, coming up with a weekend of captivating entertainment for all family members, including those with four legs.

Following is a run-down of what there is to do and see at the Fair.

Dog Show

Back by remarkable demand, is the Algarve Dog Show, bigger, better and bolder than before.

Prior glitches have been ironed out with the help of Dog Show organisers Paws 4 Pets, to offer dog lovers and their pets a day of fun learning, training, top tips, and of course, the chance to win coveted prizes in an array of categories, including 'Dog with the X-Factor – Best Tricks', 'Doggy with the best Eyes' and 'The Big Heart Award'.

Expert advice and products will also be available at the Dog Show, and visitors are more than welcome to bring their pets with them and join in the activities that have been purposely created to involve all family members – including Fido – at no extra cost (just bring a plastic bag in case of 'accidents').

Demonstrations

This year International Algarve Fair visitors will not only see beautiful and interesting things, but they will also be able to learn how to make them with a series of free, live demonstrations and forums, open to all to participate in, covering a range of topics from flower arranging and card-making to health and beauty.

On both Saturday and Sunday a line-up of 20-30 minute forums has been organised to offer visitors a more interactive activity. Each subject will start on the hour, every hour, from 12h00 until 17h00.

Learn all the tips of the trade and a few tricks along the way from those in the know. Included in the line-up are flower arranging, by St. Vincent's Church's resident expert Pamela Stafford Brown, handcrafted cards for all occasions by Susan Sobral, making the most of your features with professional make-up artist and local beauty therapist Lara Costa, who will be teaching how to do smoky eyes, day and summer make up, and the advantages of permanent make-up, by Hair Lounge, in Boliqueime.

There will also be informative talks on 'Nutritional Medicine… You Deserve to Know!', by a nutrition expert from Luzdoc, 'IT & The Future', by Bluechip IT director Kurt Pardon, 'Preventative Health Care', by Vida Harmonia, and Weight Loss, by Wendy Orsby.

The workshops are free to visitors, expected to last between 15 and 20 minutes, with a 10 minute Question and Answer session at the end. They will be held in the 'Workshop Marquee' in front of the Wine Show.

Wine Show

Each year huge efforts are made to find and enlist new recruits to showcase some of Portugal's most outstanding, well-known and little known wines; this year, some of the region's leading producers and distributors will be offering samples of their top-choices.

Please see page 54 for full details of the participants.

More food and drink

As always the food court and arena will be where the main entertainment happens, with an ever-growing, diverse variety of eateries and watering holes providing flavoursome food and much-needed refreshment, alcoholic and otherwise. Cocktails, caipirinhas, curries, chicken piri-piri, crepes, cakes, coffees and so much more can be savoured from morning till night.

Entertainment

Organisers of the International Algarve Fair understand that entertainment is central to visitors thoroughly enjoying the overall experience, and as much as the many stands and eateries may be a joy to amble round and explore, it has been proven that entertainment really makes the day an outstanding one.

By huge demand this year the entertainment will carry on until well after the Fair closes, giving late-arrivals or night owls the chance to dine at leisure and be entertained until 22h30. It also provides the opportunity to 'make a night of it', get dressed up, have a meal and a dance or a sing-along.

For the complete entertainment line-up, see page 36.

There will be a dedicated children's entertainment area in the Arena, while clowns, jugglers and magicians will also be teaching simple juggling and tricks on the central grass area.

In the Algarve Dog Show area there will be displays and training and many other attractions for pet lovers, all day long.

How much more entertainment could be squeezed into one weekend?

Blood doning

For the first time ever a blood drive will be held for generous donors willing to give something back and make a difference to someone else's life.

Organised in association with the Western Algarve Association for Blood Donors (ADSBA), collections will be carried out at the Fair on both days, on Saturday from 15h30 to 18h00, and Sunday, 11h00 to 14h00 and 15h30 to 18h00. You will find an area specially set up for this purpose at the back of the Pavilion.

Blood donations are used in most hospitals on a daily basis, for a number of medical interventions, but ultimately to save lives. Summer is a particularly demanding season on resources, when the regional population soars, road traffic increases, and blood stocks need boosting.

Anyone in good health, with a healthy lifestyle, aged between 18 and 65 and a weight of 50 kilos or over can give blood. Men can donate every three months (four times per year) and women every four months (three times per year). First-time donors must not be over 60 years-of-age.

To find out more about who can or cannot give blood, information on other donation points, hospitals with in-house blood drives, or national blood stocks, see: website www.ipsangue.org.

Business+ Zone

This new area will have some of the features you will also find in the 'Golden Triangle Exhibition', to be held later this year.

These include a Champagne Bar, space for exhibitors to sit comfortably with clients, and a more private feel.

Confirmed companies that will be in the Business+Zone include Royal Caribbean International, the Algarve Race Track, Vila Sol, World Telecom & Optimus, Ashbourne Villiers, Joro, the Airport Centre and Soul Kitchen Productions.

Refreshment is available in the form of a Champagne Bar or the Portugal News Café & Lounge, where visitors will find the popular traditional coffee and 'pastel de nata'.

Activities galore with Sports & Clubs

Looking for a new hobby? Want something exciting to do in your spare time? How about a bit of fun at the weekend? Or becoming a member of a worthy cause?

If it is excitement, a new skill or new acquaintances you are looking for then pop into the Sports and Clubs Extra-Curricular Activities area at the International Algarve Fair and see what's there.

Back again this year is the Lagoa Voluntary Fire-brigade, bringing with them fun, facts, and their big red fire-engine.

For a nominal fee of €1 children can enter the Bombeiros' play area, climb on the engine, play with hosepipes, pose with the firemen, and experience what it's like to be part of a real fire brigade.

In previous years the Lagoa Fire crew have proved hugely popular, and will this year be bringing back the exhilarating zip-line, which runs the length of the stage at dizzy heights and forms part of their official training.

All funds raised will revert to the Lagoa station, which comprises fire-fighters and ambulance crew many of whom work on a voluntary or nominal pay basis.

Other Sports and Clubs that will be at the Fair and are looking to recruit new members, give lessons or offer services include 'Crazy Paintball', who will have a demo-wall for the equipment to be tried and tested, and football club Geração Benfica, from Portimão, who will also be selling Portuguese football league champions Benfica memorabilia.

The Algarve Clarinet Ensemble will be taking enrolments for private lessons as well as offering information and tips at the Fair. As will the Golf Academy Algarve, who will be on hand to give you tips on everything, from how to improve your swing to what equipment suits you best.

The Morris Ballet School and the Calvário Folklore Dance Ranch will both be putting on performances on the main stage as well as taking enrolments.

The Dog Show Programme

		Saturday 5th June 2010	Sunday 6th June 2010
Judge Paulo Coelho	11:00	Opening of Show	Opening of Show
	11:15	Ringcraft Demonstration	Ringcraft Demonstration
	11:30	Rufty Tufty Puppy - Mixed Breed (4-9 months)	Rufty Tufty Puppy - Mixed Breed (4-9 months)
	11:50	Little 'uns - Young handlers <8 years old	Little 'uns - Young handlers <8 years old
	12:10	Portuguese Breeds	Portuguese Breeds
	12:30	Best Pedigree Puppy (4-9 months)	Best Pedigree Puppy (4-9 months)
	12:50	Dog and Owner Lookalike	Dog and Owner Lookalike
	13:10	Waggiest Tail	Waggiest Tail
	13:30	Best Male Pedigree	Best Male Pedigree
Judge Mel Woodman	13:50	The BIG SIT!	The BIG SIT!
	14:10	The Best Recall	The Best Recall
	14:30	Demonstration of dog handling	Demonstration of dog handling
Carla Molinari	14:50	The story of the Portuguese Water Dog	The story of the Portuguese Water Dog
	15:10	Best Portuguese Water Dog	Best Portuguese Water Dog
Judge Paulo Coelho	15:30	Junior Handlers - 8-16years	Junior Handlers - 8-16years
	15:50	Best Female - Mixed Breed	Best Female - Mixed Breed
	16:10	Doggy with the Best Eyes	Doggy with the Best Eyes
	16:30	Dog with the X-Factor - best tricks	Dog with the X-Factor - best tricks
	16:50	Best Groomed dog	Best Groomed dog
	17:10	Best Male - Mixed Breed	Best Male - Mixed Breed
	17:30	Best Female - Pedigree	Best Female - Pedigree
	17:50	Best In Show	Best In Show
	18:00		The Big Heart Award

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Standholder	Stand Nº	Type Of Business
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A Arte dos Vitrais.com	119	Stained Glass
A J M Interiors	37	Interiors
A Tasca do Zé	Arena 10	Portuguese Food & Fresh Fish
Acquapro	61	Water Treatment
ADAP	Dogshow A3	Pets Charity
Alda Gomes	A&C 12	African Arts & Crafts
Alex Vermogensbank	89	Online Stockbroker (Bank)
Alexandra Pinto	53	Handmade Cotton Clothes & Jewelry
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Algarve Clarinet Ensemble	86	Leisure
Algarve Golf Academy	83	Sports & Golf
Algarve Painting Solutions	40	Painting + Renovation
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All Saints Anglican Church	79	Church
Ana Paula Gonçalves	A&C 4	Cristals/Precious Stones
Ana Silva	A&C 5	Jewellery, Fashion
Ania's Smörgåstårtor	Arena 5	Swedish Open Sandwiches & Cakes
Anita Pitcock	A&C 9 & 10	Personallised Plaques & Handicrafts
Anja's Magic Box	99	Aloe Vera, Soaps, Bath SaltS, etc
APAA	Dogshow A	Charity
APC Automatic Gates-meo	39	Automatismic gates and Intercom
Aqua Innovative Systems	64	Water Treatment
Aqua Pura	2	Swimming Pool Covers
Arco Iris	Open Area 1	Children's Charity
Artigrass Bugbusters	28	Ecofriendly Gardening
Arviplar Lda	4	Renewable Energy, Air Conditioning etc.
Ashbourne Villiers	104	Financial
Ashbourne Villiers	20, 21 & 22	Financial
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Autódromo do Algarve	P01	
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Bangla	8	Toys
Barlavento Ballons	P03	
Bean Bags	27	Bean Bags
Bedspreads Factory Outlet	108	Linens
Blevins Franks	66	Financial Management
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Canilux	Dogshow S	Groomer & Pet Shop
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Clinica Veterinária de Vilamoura	Dogshow M	Vet
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Joro Lda Loja@Joro.pt	121	Heating/BBQ/Solar/Water Treatment
José Silva	A&C 13	Arts & Crafts
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Medina	11	Moroccan Arts & Crafts
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Mick Howitt	A&C 03	Woodturning
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Paws 4 Pets	Dogshow N&O&P	Pet Supplies
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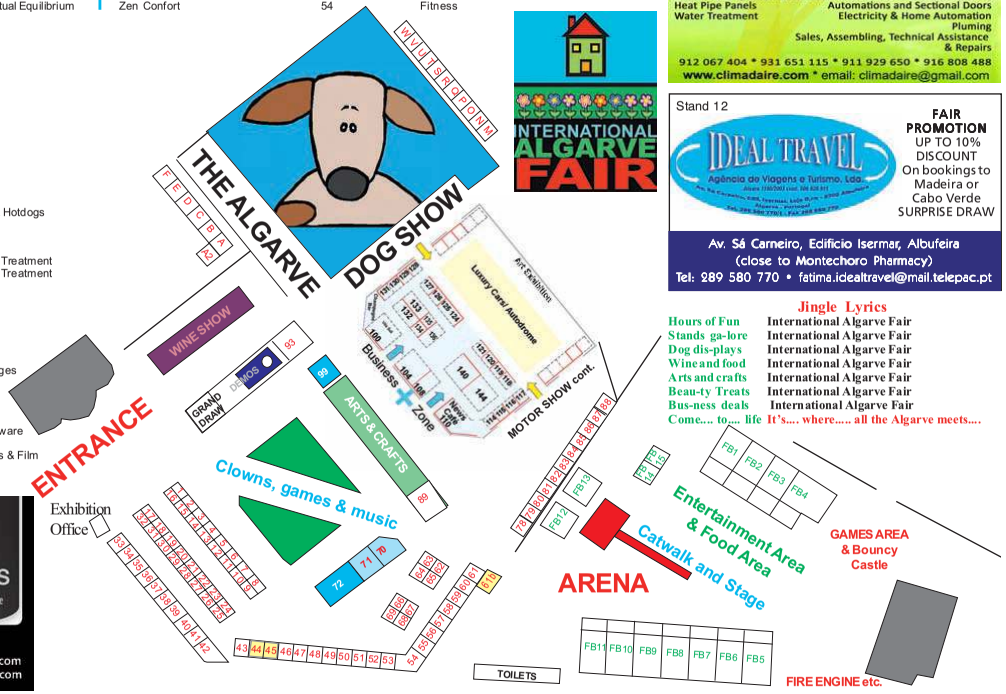

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Blu-ray Explained…

Blu-ray Discs are currently the best source of high-definition video available on the market. Blu-ray delivers images that are even more vibrant and lifelike than the best HD (High Definition) television broadcasts.

Blu-ray can deliver 1080p — the highest resolution currently available. So if you're craving HD content, and are disappointed with the inconsistent quantity and quality of the HD programming offered by broadcasters and cable and satellite providers, a Blu-ray player might be right for you.

The technology behind Blu-ray

Starting with the CD and then eventually with the DVD, the laser technology used inside the DVD readers and writers of today are the cheaper red lasers. These red lasers read the grooves in the disc and manage to relay the information back to the processor which then interprets it into a video and/or audio signal. The difference between Blu-Ray and CD/DVD is that it uses a blue laser instead of a red one.

The question then arises, "Why is that significant?" Well, blue lasers are much more powerful than red lasers when it comes to reading the grooves and dents in a typical disc.

The easiest way to understand this technology is to use the analogy of reading glasses and a printed sheet of paper. If you print out text on a sheet of paper using the 12 pt font, most people could read it unassisted using regular reading glasses (This could be compared to your CD player). However, you could take those same reading glasses and curve the lens slightly allowing the person to be able to read even more information because now you can view an 8 pt font (This could be compared to your DVD player). Now if you could change the reading glasses in such a way to allow them to zoom in even more, you could now print out information on that same sheet of paper using a 2 pt font and have the person read it, allowing for much more information to be printed on the same sheet of paper. Blu-ray discs are read on a much smaller scale than traditional DVD's. This allows for more information to be "burnt" onto a single layer, meaning that when you double up the layers in the disc, like you are able to do with a traditional 4.7 GB DVD disc, you manage to multiply the capacity by 2.

This is why a single-layer BD-R disc can hold 25 GB (Gigabytes) of information and a dual-layer BD-R disc can hold up to 50 GB of information. This is a marvel when you consider that it was only around 20 years ago that most hard drives were just a few megabytes in size.

The technology inside a Blu-Ray Disc player is essentially the same as a DVD Player, but the addition of a blue laser is what drives the cost of the Blu-Ray Player up.

If you're wondering about the future of Blu-ray, Pioneer has been able to increase the size of a Blu-Ray Disc up to 400 GB by stacking 16 layers together. Can you imagine fitting 400 GB of data or video onto a single disc?

Equipment needed to work with Blu-ray

Do I need a 1080p TV? Blu-ray players let you select the resolution that best matches your TV. When you pair a Blu-ray player with a 1080p display, you'll enjoy the most detailed picture possible. But you'll still get an impressive HD picture with a 720p or 1080i TV set.

Next-generation audio

In addition to high-definition video, Blu-ray also gives you more detailed sound. Blu-ray Discs and players can provide the same Dolby® Digital and DTS® soundtracks you've grown accustomed to with DVD, plus advanced new versions of these formats:

- **Dolby Digital Plus** and **DTS-HD™ High Resolution** (also known simply as "DTS-HD") Both offer up to 7.1-channel surround sound, for even more enveloping audio than standard 5.1-channel Dolby Digital and DTS. They also use less compression than their DVD counterparts for a more faithful reproduction of the original movie soundtrack.
- **Dolby TrueHD** and **DTS-HD Master Audio**

These formats use "lossless" compression to deliver soundtracks that are identical to the movie studio's original master, for the closest possible reproduction of the movie theater experience.

Do all Blu-ray players support the new audio formats?

While Blu-ray players can support a variety of audio formats, they're not necessarily required to. All Blu-ray players must support Dolby Digital, DTS, and PCM. However, Dolby Digital Plus, Dolby TrueHD, DTS-HD High Resolution and DTS-HD Master Audio are all optional — the players don't have to support them. So if you want to enjoy the greater detail that the new audio formats deliver, be sure to choose a player that can handle them.

Netflix®, Pandora®, and other online services

In addition to delivering high-definition movies and related bonus features, newer Blu-ray players let you stream movies and music from online services like Netflix, Blockbuster®, Pandora, YouTube™, and more. You'll need subscriptions to these services and a broadband Internet connection to take advantage of them. Once you're connected, you can enjoy movies from your Netflix Instant Queue, for example. Or, kick back and listen to music from Pandora — an Internet radio service that creates on-the-fly play lists based on your musical tastes. Some other players give you access to other content, like digital photos stored on your computer, or stock information and weather reports.

3D Blu-ray compatibility

A limited number of newer Blu-ray players are able to play 3D video from 3D Blu-ray discs and send that signal on to your 3D TV. Some Sony players will be able to play 3D discs after a future upgrade via the Internet, as will Sony's Playstation® 3. Most other players will have this ability built-in. Check with your Blu-ray player's manufacturer to be sure.

But here's the catch: in order to watch 3D Blu-ray movies, you'll need each component in your system to be 3D-compatible. That means you'll need an HDTV capable of displaying 3D video, as well as 3D glasses from the same manufacturer as your TV. And if you're connecting your 3D-ready Blu-ray player to a receiver, then the receiver must also be 3D-ready in order to pass 3D video on to your TV.

You'll also need HDMI cables to connect all your 3D gear. Most recent HDMI cables should be up to the job, especially if they're 2 meters or less in length.

Other considerations

Most of today's Blu-ray players also have the extra capabilities you may have grown accustomed to with your DVD player, such as the ability to play regular CD's and those filled with MP3 files. Many of them can play WMA music files, too. Most models also let you pop in a disc filled with JPEG digital photos, so you can display your favorite snapshots on your TV screen. And if you're a fan of DivX®, you'll be happy to know that some players can also play CD's or DVD's loaded with DivX videos as well.

Kurt will be performing in the daily demos in the marquee in front of the Wine Show at the International Algarve Fair on Saturday at 13.00 and on Sunday at 15.00 or you can meet him on stand no.140

Kurt Pardon • I.T. Director
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Enjoy a glass of chamapgne in the Vila Sol champagne bar; talk finance with Ashbourne Villiers; take a *bica* and *pastel de nata* in The Portugal News CafÈ; find out about Acupressuremats on the Shakti stand; be beautified at Sal„o Elysium; sit on the casting couch at SoulKitchen Productions; wonder at stained glass by A Arte dos Vitrais; discuss a brand new smile with Cris Piessens Dental Clinic; view those wonderful gel fires at Joro. In case you donít win the Royal Carribean Mediterranean cruise you can book one on the Melair stand and Global Web will advise you on web design. Lagoa City Hall will be there to tell you about their latest plans and developments in the area, and Optimus and WorldTelecom have combined to update you on the latest telecoms, but if you are looking for the exotic, Fantasia Magreb are there to inspire and delight.
All this is in the Business + Zone in the Pavilion at the International Algarve Fair. Quiet, relaxed and exclusive.

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SATURDAY 05/06/10

BBC1

06.00 Breakfast.
10.00 Saturday Kitchen.
11.30 The Delicious Miss Dahl.
12.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
12.15 The Fastest Man Who Has Ever Lived.
13.15 Derby Day.
16.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
16.45 Hole in the Wall.
17.15 **FILM**: Shrek 2 (2004).
18.40 Doctor Who.
19.30 The National Lottery: In It to Win It 2012.
20.20 Casualty.
21.10 Victoria Wood's Short Term Memories.
22.00 Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow.
22.45 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.
23.05 **FILM**: Legally Blonde (2001).
00.35 Derby Day Highlights.
01.05 Friday Night with Jonathan Ross; Weatherview.
02.10 BBC News.

BBC2

06.00 CBeebies.
07.00 CBBC.
12.00 BBC Switch: Degrassi: The Next Generation.
12.25 BBC Switch: The Cut.
12.50 BBC Switch: No Hats, No Trainers.
13.15 BBC Switch: The 5:19 Show.
13.30 BBC Switch: Off the Hook.
14.00 Live French Open Tennis.
16.55 Coast.
17.25 The Boats That Built Britain.
17.55 Dad's Army.
18.25 Timewatch - Bloody Omaha.
19.25 Little Ships.
20.25 Dunkirk: The Soldiers' Story.
21.15 Have I Got a Bit More News for You.
22.00 I'm in a Rock 'n' Roll Band! Live.
23.45 **FILM**: Somers Town (2008).
01.05 **FILM**: A Room for Romeo Brass (1999).
02.30 Bon Jovi: When We Were Beautiful.

ITV1 London

05.30 ITV Morning News.
06.00 GMTV.
09.25 The Crocodile Hunter Diaries.
10.25 The Lakes.
10.55 Monk.
11.50 News and Weather.
12.09 London Weather.
12.10 This Morning: Saturday.
13.10 Britain's Got Talent.
14.40 Britain's Got Talent - The Results.
15.10 **FILM**: Kindergarten Cop (1990).
17.10 Creature Comforts.
17.20 Creature Comforts.
17.30 London Tonight; Weather.
17.45 ITV News and Weather.
18.00 You've Been Framed!
18.30 The Whole 19 Yards.
19.30 Britain's Got Talent - The Final.
22.00 **FILM**: Batman Begins (2005).
23.30 ITV News and Weather; Weather.
23.45 **FILM**: Batman Begins (2005).
00.50 The Zone; ITV News Headlines.
02.50 **FILM**: Jesus Christ Superstar (1973).
04.40 ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4

06.10 The Hoobs.
06.35 ITU Triathlon World Cup.
07.30 World Sport.
08.00 The Morning Line.
08.55 T4: Friends.
09.25 T4: Friends.
09.55 T4: 90210.
10.50 T4: Simon Cowell: Real Stories.
11.55 T4: Frock Me.
12.25 T4: The Hollyoaks Music Show.
12.55 T4: Smallville.
13.55 Channel 4 Racing from Doncaster and Musselburgh.
15.55 Come Dine with Me.
18.30 Channel 4 News.
19.00 **FILM**: The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003).
22.40 **FILM**: A Man Apart (2003).
00.45 **FILM**: Black Christmas (1974).
02.40 My Daughter Grew Another Head and Other True Life Stories.
03.35 What About Brian.
04.15 A Ninja Is For Life, Not Just for Christmas.
04.20 Demolition Day.
05.15 Countdown.

Five

06.00 Sunrise.
07.00 Milkshake!
10.00 Animal Rescue Squad.
10.15 Fifth Gear.
10.45 Britain's Greatest Machines with Chris Barrie.
11.45 Tutankhamun: The Mystery Revealed.
12.45 **FILM**: Last of the Dogmen (1995).
15.00 **FILM**: The Cannonball Run (1981).
16.50 **FILM**: The Missing (2003).
19.10 Five News.
19.15 Cricket on Five.
20.00 NCIS.
21.00 CSI: Miami.
22.00 CSI: NY.
23.00 Law & Order.
23.55 Cops in Crisis.
00.15 SuperCasino.
04.05 Wildlife SOS.
04.30 Wildlife SOS.
04.55 The Family Recipe.
05.00 Hana's Helpline.
05.10 The Milkshake! Show.
05.35 Thomas & Friends.
05.45 Roary the Racing Car.

SUNDAY 06/06/10

BBC1

06.00 Breakfast.
09.00 The Andrew Marr Show.
10.00 The Big Questions.
11.00 Country Tracks.
12.00 The Politics Show.
13.00 EastEnders.
15.20 Junior Apprentice.
16.20 Points of View.
16.40 Songs of Praise.
17.15 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
17.30 Priceless Antiques Roadshow.
18.00 Halcyon River Diaries.
19.00 Countryfile.
20.00 Bafta TV Awards 2010.
22.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
22.25 **FILM**: A Good Woman (2004).
23.55 The Sky at Night; Weatherview.
00.20 Sign Zone: Little Ships.
01.20 Sign Zone: Holby City.
02.20 Sign Zone: Inside John Lewis.
03.20 Sign Zone: Modern Masters.
04.20 BBC News.

BBC2

06.00 CBeebies.
07.00 CBBC.
10.00 Something for the Weekend.
11.30 Great British Menu.
12.30 Live MotoGP.
14.00 Live French Open Tennis.
17.55 Earth: The Power of the Planet.
18.55 Richard Hammond's Engineering Connections.
19.45 Top Gear.
21.00 An African Journey with Jonathan Dimbleby.
22.00 **FILM**: Michael Clayton (2007).
23.55 **FILM**: Confessions of a Dangerous Mind (2002).
01.40 BBC News.
04.20 The Super League Show.
05.20 Close.

ITV1 London

05.30 ITV Morning News.
06.00 GMTV.
09.25 Coronation Street.
11.55 News and Weather.
11.59 London Weather.
12.00 This Morning: Sunday.
13.00 **FILM**: Columbo: Death Hits the Jackpot (1991).
15.00 Britain's Got Talent - The Final.
17.30 London Tonight; Weather.
17.45 ITV News and Weather.
18.00 Soccer Aid 2010.
22.00 Piers Morgan's World Cup South Africa.
23.00 ITV News and Weather; Weather.
23.15 **FILM**: Open Water (2004).
00.50 The Zone; ITV News Headlines.
02.30 Motorsport UK.
03.20 ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4

06.00 The Treacle People.
06.10 The Hoobs.
06.35 The Hoobs.
07.00 The Grid.
07.30 British Formula 3 International Series.
08.00 Freesports on 4.
08.55 T4: The Hills.
09.25 T4: Friends.
09.55 T4: Hollyoaks.
12.25 T4: Friends.
13.00 T4: Glee.
14.00 T4: World Music Awards.
15.35 T4: The Simpsons.
16.10 T4: The Simpsons.
16.40 Deal or No Deal.
17.25 Scrapheap Challenge.
18.30 Channel 4 News.
19.00 Cameron's Black Tory.
19.55 **FILM**: One Fine Day (1996).
22.00 Big Brother Exposed: The Inside Story.
23.05 8 Out of 10 Cats.
23.40 **FILM**: Kung Fu Hustle (2004).
01.35 **FILM**: The Kid Stays in the Picture (2002).
03.10 What About Brian.
03.50 Win My Wage.
04.35 Countdown.
05.20 Hill Street Blues.

Five

06.00 Sunrise.
07.00 Milkshake!
10.00 Shake!
11.10 Family Food Fight.
11.40 Renee Fleming: From Mozart to Muse.
12.10 Warplane: The Bomber.
13.10 D-Day: The Ultimate Conflict.
15.15 **FILM**: Guarding Tess (1994).
17.05 **FILM**: The Goonies (1985).
19.10 Five News.
19.15 Cricket on Five.
20.00 **FILM**: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (1991).
22.45 **FILM**: Best of the Best (1989).
00.40 SuperCasino.
04.05 Wildlife SOS.
04.30 Wildlife SOS.
04.55 The Family Recipe.
05.00 Hana's Helpline.
05.10 The Milkshake! Show.
05.35 Thomas & Friends.
05.45 Roary the Racing Car.

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MONDAY 07/06/10

BBC1

06.00 Breakfast.
09.15 Crimewatch Roadshow.
10.00 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is; BBC News; Weather.
11.00 Cowboy Trap.
11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather.
12.15 Bargain Hunt.
13.00 BBC News; Weather.
13.30 Regional News; Weather.
13.45 Doctors.
14.15 Murder, She Wrote.
15.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News.
15.05 CBeebies.
15.30 CBBC.
17.15 Weakest Link.
18.00 BBC News; Weather.
18.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather.
19.00 The One Show.
19.30 Jimmy's Food Factory; BBC News; Regional News.
20.00 EastEnders.
20.30 Panorama.
21.00 For Queen and Country.
22.00 BBC News.
22.25 Regional News; Weather.
22.35 The Graham Norton Show.
23.20 Inside Sport: South Africa in Black and White.
23.50 **FILM**: The Best of Times (1986); Springwatch Weatherview.
01.35 Sign Zone: Luther.
02.35 Sign Zone: Lost: The Mystery of Flight 447.
03.35 Sign Zone: Great British Menu.
04.35 BBC News.

BBC2

06.00 CBeebies.
07.00 CBBC.
08.30 CBeebies.
11.10 The Flintstones.
11.35 The Flintstones.
12.00 Daily Politics.
12.30 Working Lunch.
13.00 Tennis from Queen's.
17.15 Escape to the Country.
18.00 Eggheads.
18.30 Great British Railway Journeys.
19.00 Tammy Wynette
20.00 Springwatch 2010.
21.00 Mary, Queen of Shops.
22.00 Have I Got News for You.
22.30 Newsnight; Weather.
23.20 Dunkirk: The Soldiers' Story.
00.10 When Romeo Met Juliet.
01.10 BBC News.
04.35 Close.

ITV1 London

05.30 ITV Morning News.
06.00 GMTV.
09.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
10.30 This Morning.
12.30 Loose Women.
13.30 ITV News and Weather.
13.55 London News and Weather.
14.00 60 Minute Makeover.
15.00 Dickinson's Real Deal.
15.59 London Weather.
16.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot.
17.00 The Chase.
18.00 London Tonight; Weather.
18.30 ITV News and Weather.
19.00 Emmerdale.
19.30 Coronation Street.
20.00 Countrywise.
20.30 Coronation Street.
21.00 Father & Son.
22.00 ITV News at Ten and Weather.
22.30 London News and Weather.
22.35 **FILM**: Van Helsing (2004).
00.50 The Zone; ITV News Headlines.
02.55 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
03.50 ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4

06.10 The Hoobs.
06.35 The Hoobs.
07.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.
07.25 Everybody Loves Raymond.
07.50 Frasier.
08.20 Frasier.
08.45 The 5 O'Clock Show with Peter Andre.
09.50 Deal or No Deal.
10.35 Will & Grace.
11.05 Friends.
11.30 Friends.
12.00 Channel 4 News Summary.
12.05 Kicking Ahead: The Power of Sport.
12.10 The Kitchen Pharmacy.
12.20 **FILM**: Beau Brummell (1954).
14.25 Coach Trip.
14.55 Cook Yourself Thin.
15.25 Countdown.
16.10 Deal or No Deal.
17.00 The 5 O'Clock Show with Peter Andre.
18.00 The Simpsons.
18.30 Hollyoaks.
19.00 Channel 4 News.
20.00 Dispatches: Undercover Social Worker.
21.00 **FILM**: Cloverfield (2008).
22.35 **FILM**: Predator 2 (1990).
00.40 Poker.
01.45 **FILM**: Sleep My Love (1948).
03.20 Coming Up: Foreign John.
03.45 What About Brian.
04.25 Win My Wage.
05.10 Wreck Detectives.

Five

06.00 Milkshake!
09.15 The Wright Stuff.
10.45 Trisha Goddard.
11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.
12.40 Five News.
12.45 Vets in Action.
13.45 Neighbours.
14.15 Home and Away.
14.50 I Own Britain's Best Home: Flying Visit.
15.05 **FILM**: Victor (2008).
17.00 Five News; Weather.
17.30 Neighbours.
18.00 Home and Away.
18.25 Live from Studio Five.
19.15 Cricket on Five.
20.00 Police Interceptors; Five News at 9.
21.00 David Jason: The Show Must Go On!
22.00 Simon Cowell Factor.
23.00 Justin Lee Collins
00.00 America's Toughest Prisons.
01.00 SuperCasino.
04.05 Wildlife SOS.
04.30 Wildlife SOS.
04.55 Rough Guide to Beaches.
05.10 Neighbours.
05.35 Home and Away.

TUESDAY 08/06/10

BBC1

06.00 Breakfast.
09.15 Crimewatch Roadshow.
10.00 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is; BBC News; Weather.
11.00 Cowboy Trap.
11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather.
12.15 Bargain Hunt.
13.00 BBC News; Weather.
13.30 Regional News; Weather.
13.45 Doctors.
14.15 Murder, She Wrote.
15.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News.
15.05 CBeebies.
15.30 CBBC.
17.15 Weakest Link.
18.00 BBC News; Weather.
18.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather.
19.00 The One Show.
19.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News.
20.00 Holby City.
21.00 Luther.
22.00 BBC News.
22.25 Regional News; Weather.
22.35 Children's Emergency.
23.05 The Graham Norton Show.
23.50 **FILM**: James Dean (2001); Weatherview.
01.30 Sign Zone: See Hear.
02.00 Sign Zone: Junior Apprentice.
03.00 Sign Zone: Raymond Blanc: Kitchen Secrets.
03.30 Sign Zone: Great British Menu.
04.30 BBC News.

BBC2

06.00 CBeebies.
07.00 CBBC.
08.30 CBeebies.
11.10 The Flintstones.
11.35 The Flintstones.
12.00 Daily Politics.
12.30 Working Lunch.
13.00 Tennis from Queen's.
17.15 Escape to the Country.
18.00 Eggheads.
18.30 Great British Railway Journeys.
19.00 Coast.
20.00 Springwatch 2010.
21.00 Tribal Wives.
22.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks.
22.30 Newsnight; Weather.
23.20 Atlantis: The Evidence - A Timewatch Special.
00.20 Revealing Anne Lister.
01.20 BBC News.
04.30 Close.

ITV1 London

05.30 ITV Morning News.
06.00 GMTV.
09.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
10.30 This Morning.
12.30 Loose Women.
13.30 ITV News and Weather.
13.55 London News and Weather.
14.00 60 Minute Makeover.
15.00 Dickinson's Real Deal.
15.59 London Weather.
16.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot.
17.00 The Chase.
18.00 London Tonight; Weather.
18.30 ITV News and Weather.
19.00 Emmerdale.
20.00 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?
21.00 Father & Son.
22.00 ITV News at Ten and Weather.
22.30 London News and Weather.
22.35 October Road.
23.35 October Road.
00.25 The Zone; ITV News Headlines.
02.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
03.20 ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4

06.05 Sali Mali.
06.10 The Hoobs.
06.35 The Hoobs.
07.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.
07.25 Everybody Loves Raymond.
07.50 Frasier.
08.20 Frasier.
08.45 The 5 O'Clock Show with Peter Andre.
09.45 Deal or No Deal.
10.35 Will & Grace.
11.00 Friends.
11.30 Friends.
12.00 Channel 4 News Summary.
12.05 Kicking Ahead: The Power of Sport.
12.10 The Herd.
12.15 Jamie at Home.
12.45 **FILM**: Moonfleet (1955).
14.25 Coach Trip.
14.55 Cook Yourself Thin.
15.25 Countdown.
16.10 Deal or No Deal.
17.00 The 5 O'Clock Show with Peter Andre.
18.00 The Simpsons.
18.30 Hollyoaks.
19.00 Channel 4 News.
20.00 Gok's Fashion Fix.
21.00 Inside Nature's Giants: Great White Shark.
22.00 Big Brother's Big Awards Show.
23.05 The Good Wife.
00.05 Poker.
01.05 Beach Volleyball.
02.00 British Formula 3 International Series.
02.25 KOTV Boxing Weekly.
02.55 The Grid.
03.20 World Sport.
03.50 Freesports on 4.
04.45 Survival of the Fittest.
05.10 Wreck Detectives.

Five

06.00 Milkshake!
09.15 The Wright Stuff.
10.45 Trisha Goddard.
11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.
12.40 Five News.
12.45 Vets in Action.
13.45 Neighbours.
14.15 Home and Away.
14.50 The Family Recipe.
15.00 **FILM**: Though None Go With Me (2006).
17.00 Five News; Weather.
17.30 Neighbours.
18.00 Home and Away.
18.25 Live from Studio Five.
19.15 Cricket on Five.
20.00 Volcanic Ash: The Ticking Timebomb; Five News at 9.
21.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.
22.00 CSI: Miami; Five News Update.
23.00 CSI: NY.
00.00 NCIS.
00.55 SuperCasino.
04.05 Wildlife SOS.
04.30 Wildlife SOS.
04.55 Rough Guide to Cities.
05.10 Neighbours.
05.35 Home and Away.

WEDNESDAY 09/06/10

BBC1

06.00 Breakfast.
09.15 Crimewatch Roadshow.
10.00 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is; BBC News; Weather.
11.00 Cowboy Trap.
11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather.
12.15 Bargain Hunt.
13.00 BBC News; Weather.
13.30 Regional News; Weather.
13.45 Doctors.
14.15 Murder, She Wrote.
15.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News.
15.05 CBeebies.
15.30 CBBC.
17.15 Weakest Link.
18.00 BBC News; Weather.
18.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather.
19.00 The One Show.
19.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News.
20.00 Waterloo Road.
21.00 Junior Apprentice.
22.00 BBC News.
22.25 Regional News; Weather.
22.35 The National Lottery Draws.
22.45 **FILM**: Proof of Life (2000); National Lottery Update and Weatherview.
01.00 Sign Zone: Country Tracks.
01.55 Sign Zone: DIY SOS.
02.25 Sign Zone: Watchdog.
03.25 Sign Zone: Great British Menu.
04.25 BBC News.

BBC2

06.00 CBeebies.
07.00 CBBC.
08.30 CBeebies.
10.30 CBeebies.
11.05 The Flintstones.
11.30 Daily Politics.
13.00 See Hear.
13.30 Working Lunch.
14.00 Tennis from Queen's.
17.15 Escape to the Country.
18.00 Eggheads.
18.30 Great British Railway Journeys.
19.00 The Beauty of Maps.
19.30 South Africa Walks.
20.00 Springwatch 2010.
21.00 Make Me a New Face: Hope for Africa's Hidden Children.
22.00 QI.
22.30 Newsnight; Weather.
23.20 An African Journey with Jonathan Dimbleby.
00.20 South Africa Walks.
00.50 BBC News.
04.25 Close.

ITV1 London

05.30 ITV Morning News.
06.00 GMTV.
09.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
10.30 This Morning.
12.30 Loose Women.
13.30 ITV News and Weather.
13.55 London News and Weather.
14.00 60 Minute Makeover.
15.00 Dickinson's Real Deal.
15.59 London Weather.
16.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot.
17.00 The Chase.
18.00 London Tonight; Weather.
18.30 ITV News and Weather.
19.00 Emmerdale.
19.30 Britain's Broken Roads: Tonight.
19.30 Lion Country.
20.00 Florida - Paradise Lost.
21.00 Father & Son.
22.00 ITV News at Ten and Weather.
22.30 London News and Weather.
22.35 **FILM**: The Illusionist (2006).
00.35 The Zone; ITV News Headlines.
02.40 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
03.30 ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4

06.10 The Hoobs.
06.35 The Hoobs.
07.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.
07.25 Everybody Loves Raymond.
07.50 Frasier.
08.20 Frasier.
08.45 The 5 O'Clock Show with Peter Andre.
09.45 Deal or No Deal.
10.35 Will & Grace.
11.00 Friends.
11.30 Friends.
12.00 Channel 4 News Summary.
12.05 Kicking Ahead: The Power of Sport.
12.10 Home Country.
12.15 Jamie at Home.
12.45 **FILM**: Footsteps in the Fog (1955).
14.25 Coach Trip.
14.55 Cook Yourself Thin.
15.25 Countdown.
16.10 Deal or No Deal.
17.00 The 5 O'Clock Show with Peter Andre.
18.00 The Simpsons.
18.30 Hollyoaks.
19.00 Channel 4 News.
20.00 Come Dine with Me: Wags Special.
21.00 Big Brother: The Launch.
22.35 Desperate Housewives.
23.35 The Big Bang Theory.
00.00 My Name Is Earl.
00.30 My Name Is Earl.
01.00 Music on 4: The Crush.
01.30 Big Brother: Live.
05.15 Countdown.

Five

06.00 Milkshake!
09.15 The Wright Stuff.
10.45 Trisha Goddard.
11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.
12.40 Five News.
12.45 Vets in Action.
13.45 Neighbours.
14.15 Home and Away.
14.50 The Family Recipe.
15.10 **FILM**: I Dream of Murder (2006).
17.00 Five News; Weather.
17.30 Neighbours.
18.00 Home and Away.
18.25 Live from Studio Five.
19.30 Daring Raids of World War Two; Five News Update.
20.00 Tutankhamun: The Mystery Revealed; Five News at 9.
21.00 NCIS.
22.00 CSI: NY.
22.55 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.
23.55 Poker.
00.55 SuperCasino.
04.05 Wildlife SOS.
04.30 Wildlife SOS.
04.55 Rough Guide To.
05.10 Neighbours.
05.35 Home and Away.

THURSDAY 10/06/10

BBC1

06.00 Breakfast.
09.15 Crimewatch Roadshow.
10.00 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is; BBC News; Weather.
11.00 Cowboy Trap.
11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather.
12.15 Bargain Hunt.
13.00 BBC News; Weather.
13.30 Regional News; Weather.
13.45 Doctors.
14.15 Murder, She Wrote.
15.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News.
15.05 CBeebies.
15.30 CBBC.
17.15 Weakest Link.
18.00 BBC News; Weather.
18.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather.
19.00 The One Show.
19.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News.
20.00 Watchdog.
21.00 Junior Apprentice.
22.00 BBC News.
22.25 Regional News; Weather.
22.35 Question Time.
23.35 This Week; Holiday Weatherview.
00.25 Sign Zone: Panorama.
00.55 Sign Zone: Countryfile.
01.55 Sign Zone: When Romeo Met Juliet.
02.55 Sign Zone: Diet or My Husband Dies.
03.45 Sign Zone: Great British Menu.
04.45 BBC News.

BBC2

06.00 CBeebies.
07.00 CBBC.
08.30 CBeebies.
11.10 The Flintstones.
11.35 The Flintstones.
12.00 Daily Politics.
12.30 Working Lunch.
13.00 Tennis from Queen's.
17.15 Escape to the Country.
18.00 Eggheads.
18.30 Great British Railway Journeys.
19.00 The Culture Show.
20.00 Springwatch 2010.
21.00 Springwatch Unsprung 2010.
21.30 World Cup Kick Off Concert.
22.30 Newsnight; Weather.
23.20 The Culture Show.
00.20 World Cup Kick Off Concert.
01.20 BBC News.
04.45 Close.

ITV1 London

05.30 ITV Morning News.
06.00 GMTV.
09.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
10.30 This Morning.
12.30 Loose Women.
13.30 ITV News and Weather.
13.55 London News and Weather.
14.00 60 Minute Makeover.
15.00 Dickinson's Real Deal.
15.59 London Weather.
16.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot.
17.00 The Chase.
18.00 London Tonight; Weather.
18.30 ITV News and Weather.
19.00 Emmerdale.
20.00 Emmerdale.
20.30 Coronation Street.
21.00 Father & Son.
22.00 ITV News at Ten and Weather.
22.30 London News and Weather.
22.35 **FILM**: Sixty Six (2006).
00.20 The Zone; ITV News Headlines.
02.20 British Touring Car Championship Highlights.
03.35 ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4

06.00 The Hoobs.
06.25 The Hoobs.
06.50 Big Brother's Little Brother.
07.20 Big Brother: The Launch.
08.50 The 5 O'Clock Show with Peter Andre.
09.50 Deal or No Deal.
10.35 Will & Grace.
11.00 Friends.
11.30 Friends.
12.00 Channel 4 News Summary.
12.05 Kicking Ahead: The Power of Sport.
12.10 Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Harness Racing.
12.20 **FILM**: Bhowani Junction (1956).
14.25 Coach Trip.
14.55 Cook Yourself Thin.
15.25 Countdown.
16.10 Deal or No Deal.
17.00 The 5 O'Clock Show with Peter Andre.
18.00 The Simpsons.
18.30 Hollyoaks.
19.00 Channel 4 News.
20.00 Location, Location, Location.
21.00 Come Dine with Me: Footballers Special.
22.00 Big Brother.
23.10 Skins.
00.15 Dirty Sexy Money.
01.10 Big Brother: Live.
03.20 Dispatches: Undercover Social Worker.
04.25 Unreported World.
04.50 The Kitchen Pharmacy.
05.05 Countdown.
05.50 The Hoobs.

Five

06.00 Milkshake!
09.15 The Wright Stuff.
10.45 Trisha Goddard.
11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.
12.40 Five News.
12.45 Vets in Action.
13.45 Neighbours.
14.15 Home and Away.
14.50 I Own Britain's Best Home: Flying Visit.
15.05 **FILM**: They Come Back (2007).
17.00 Five News; Weather.
17.30 Neighbours.
18.00 Home and Away.
18.25 Live from Studio Five.
19.30 Fifth Gear; Five News Update.
20.00 Britain's Greatest Machines with Chris Barrie; Five News at 9.
21.00 **FILM**: Once Upon a Time in Mexico (2003).
23.05 Police Interceptors.
00.05 SuperCasino.
04.05 Wildlife SOS.
04.30 Wildlife SOS.
04.55 Rough Guide to Weekend Breaks.
05.10 Neighbours.
05.35 Home and Away.

FRIDAY 11/06/10

BBC1

06.00 Breakfast.
09.15 Crimewatch Roadshow.
10.00 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is; BBC News; Weather.
11.00 Cowboy Trap.
11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather.
12.15 Bargain Hunt.
13.00 BBC News; Weather.
13.30 Regional News Programmes.
13.45 Doctors.
14.15 Murder, She Wrote.
15.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News.
15.05 CBeebies.
15.30 CBBC.
17.15 Weakest Link.
18.00 BBC News; Weather.
18.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather.
19.00 World Cup Match of the Day Live.
22.00 BBC News.
22.25 Regional News; Weather.
22.35 Friday Night with Jonathan Ross.
23.35 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws.
23.45 **FILM**: Extreme Measures (1996); Weatherview.
01.40 Sign Zone: The Virtual Revolution.
02.40 Sign Zone: High Street Dreams.
03.40 Great British Menu.
04.40 BBC News.

BBC2

06.00 CBeebies.
07.00 CBBC.
08.30 CBeebies.
11.10 The Flintstones.
11.35 The Flintstones.
12.00 Daily Politics.
12.30 Working Lunch.
13.00 Tennis from Queen's.
17.15 Escape to the Country.
18.00 Eggheads.
18.30 Great British Railway Journeys.
19.00 **FILM**: Grow Your Own (2007).
20.30 Gardeners' World.
21.00 When Romeo Met Juliet.
22.00 World Cup Match of the Day.
22.30 Newsnight.
23.00 The Review Show; Weather.
23.45 **FILM**: It's All Gone Pete Tong (2004).
01.15 **FILM**: Nirvana (1996).
02.45 I'm in a Rock 'n' Roll Band!

ITV1 London

05.30 ITV Morning News.
06.00 GMTV.
09.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
10.30 This Morning.
12.30 ITV News and Weather.
12.55 London News and Weather.
13.00 World Cup Opening Ceremony.
14.30 World Cup Live.
17.00 The Chase.
18.00 London Tonight
18.30 ITV News and Weather.
19.00 Emmerdale.
19.30 Coronation Street.
20.00 Dickinson's Real Deal.
20.30 Coronation Street.
21.00 Taggart.
22.00 ITV News at Ten and Weather.
22.30 London News and Weather.
22.35 World Cup Highlights.
23.35 **FILM**: The Sting (1973).
01.50 The Zone; ITV News Headlines.
03.55 Touching Evil.
04.45 ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4

06.15 The Hoobs.
06.40 Big Brother's Little Brother.
07.10 Big Brother.
08.20 Frasier.
08.50 The 5 O'Clock Show with Peter Andre.
09.50 Deal or No Deal.
10.35 Will & Grace.
11.00 Friends.
11.30 Friends.
12.00 Channel 4 News Summary.
12.05 Kicking Ahead: The Power of Sport.
12.10 Designers Under Pressure.
12.25 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions.
12.55 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions.
13.25 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions.
13.55 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions.
14.25 Coach Trip.
14.55 Cook Yourself Thin.
15.25 Countdown.
16.10 Deal or No Deal.
17.00 The 5 O'Clock Show with Peter Andre.
18.00 The Simpsons.
18.30 Hollyoaks.
19.00 Channel 4 News.
19.30 Unreported World.
20.00 Glee.
21.00 Big Brother.
22.00 8 Out of 10 Cats World Cup Special.
22.50 The Ricky Gervais Show.
23.25 The Ricky Gervais Show.
00.00 Music on 4: Mark Ronson: Video Exclusive.
00.05 Music on 4: CTRL Student Tour.
00.20 Music on 4: Mercury Prize Sessions.
00.40 Music on 4: The Best of Music Rooms.
01.25 Big Brother: Live.
03.35 This Week's 4 Music Top 20.
05.25 Countdown.

Five

06.00 Milkshake!
09.15 The Wright Stuff.
10.45 Trisha Goddard.
11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.
12.40 Five News.
12.45 Vets in Action.
13.45 Neighbours.
14.15 Home and Away.
14.50 The Family Recipe.
14.55 I Own Britain's Best Home: Flying Visit.
15.10 **FILM**: Annie's Point (2005).
17.00 Five News; Weather.
17.30 Neighbours.
18.00 Home and Away.
18.25 Live from Studio Five.
19.30 Zoo Days; Five News Update.
20.00 Sea Patrol UK
21.00 The Mentalist.
22.00 CSI: NY.
22.55 Grey's Anatomy.
23.55 Cops in Crisis.
00.15 SuperCasino.
04.05 Motorsport Mundial.
04.30 Wildlife SOS.
04.55 Rough Guide to Islands.
05.10 Neighbours.
05.35 Home and Away.

Paws4Pets at the International Algarve Fair

Spot poses with the best in show cup and some of the rosettes to be won at the Algarve Dog Show.

Suddenly I realize, as I write this, that the show is merely days away---time flies down here, we all find that. So, some thoughts about what we will be taking with us to the Fayre. We always try and get some new items to these shows---I will try and remember what they are.

First we have the two stands. We have the very big stand within the dog show arena area and a smaller one in the main arena. With the added organization of the dog show it became impossible logistically to 'man' the two large stands. The small stand will have the cages and airline crates on it, we are often asked what they look like but do not normally have the space to have them fully made up-this is an ideal opportunity. We will be sharing this stand with Elaine from Style Furnishings---thank you Elaine.

We have managed to secure some samples from various suppliers which we will be happy to advise on. Mostly we have concentrated on the parasite prevention with the special natural shampoos and the natural products that we use along with them.

The first new item that springs to mind is fabulous Jute collars and leads, we have been asked for them and they are truly wonderful. Trouble is I have 4 dogs and all have perfectly functioning collars and leads so no justification for another set. I managed to find a new supplier for the rope leads and have some of the chunky ones----wonderful and a good sensible price. With swimming and training in mind we have the Cinch-It collar more details below-they come in various colours-again I would love my swimmers to have them------but they cannot have everything in life!!

Micro Adjustable - The Cinch-It collar uses 2 mm spacing giving it a perfect fit! Not too loose and not too tight.

Waterproof - The Cinch-It collar is 100% waterproof, making it ideal for outdoor activities with your pet.

Hypoallergenic - Cinch-It collars are made of non-toxic material that glides easily over your dog's fur. No pulling or tugging,, and no skin rash or irritation that can be caused by traditional nylon collars.

Safety Lock - The unique safety device keeps the Cinch-It collar in place for added security. Simply adjust the collar to desired length and slide the safety into the lock position.

We have several new ranges of collars and leads along with some of the old favorites, which our clients continue to love. We have some lovely leather collars for the Lurchers and Greyhounds.

The Kool Coat will be there for you to check out---they are available to order and are fantastic at doing what they state---keeping the dog cool for many hours.

We have many new bright attractive beds---yes its summer but my four are still addicted to their beds even now. Its best to get them sorted now as who knows what will happen to the IVA over the next few months. We also have the very good idea of liners for the big plastic beds, wonderful.

We have the new Applaw's dried food for dog's to add to our range. We have sold Applaw's cat food for years and it is one of our steady sale items-the cats of the Algarve love it. We have added the Doggy dried food range for clients who have dogs that need a higher protein level. This is the world's first 75% meat dried dog and puppy food. Very high quality, keenly priced and the dogs seem to approve. In fact Merlin had, after his illness last summer, lost so much weight that we put him straight on Applaws: I can report that his muscle tone has increased and he has reached the dizzy heights of 25kgs-his best weight ever and all the 6kgs of lost weight is back.

We also have the Fish4Dogs Complete Dog Food, wonderful Salmon Mousse and the treats. We have stocked the treats for years and they have become a firm favorite in the showring for training. Yes I end up with fishy hands and clothes but the dogs love them. This Complete Dry Food is hypoallergenic, gluten free, natural with Omega 3 and over 55% Fish. Salmon is the favorite in our house. The Fish4Dogs is easy for your dogs to digest and is ideal for dogs with delicate tummies or digestive problems.

We will have all the Halti's, harnesses, muzzles, doggy toys, well probably most of the shop, let's be honest!! Everything will be available to help Fiona from Company of Animals train your dogs

Chloe, Cleo, Merlin and Cassie will all be with us as they cannot be 'home alone'---as will Lewis and Nicholas, the boys will be on hand to help us when we need them.

In readiness for all this activity I must spend the next week trying to 'find' my dogs under their coats. Just hope it is normal early June weather and not as hot as it has been the last few days. We may have to include a new class involving water---no joking, the Waterdogs would be too difficult to handle!! Stop press on the coat subject---Cleo has decided that to leap over our wall in pursuit of a cat and then get stuck in the next door jungle is FUN---she only does this when Daddy is in charge. What a mess she was when she was eventually located and returned to base. PWDs, she is 4.5 years old and should really be more sensible!!

We all look forward to meeting up with all our friends, 2 and 4 footed on either or both days. The main aim is to **raise money to help in the support of homeless dogs**, and have a bit of fun with the family and pets whilst we do that. By doing both days we hope to make it more convenient for people who work.

Remember to bring the dogs vaccine books with you, to leave any "in season" bitches at home and to muzzle any dogs which by law should be. Poop scoppers will be available and pick up is the way we must go.

Jan Cobley
Paws 4 Pets 916 273 376
www.paws4pets.net

Registration for the dog show is open from 10am. Please make sure that if you are entering the early classes that you register early, because registration will close 10 minutes before the class starts

Milo & Me

Summer's arriving and it's hot, hot, hot!

It's lovely - finally we can stop moaning about the rain and the cold and the wind and start enjoying the warmth. Except for one family member who doesn't seem too impressed by his first taste of summer: Milo is a bit lethargic at the moment…

I'm no expert but I would bet on it being the heat that's making him that way.

He sleeps most of the day, drools more than ever, and can't even be bothered to bark at the turtle doves that hang around our garden taunting him - it all seems just too much effort.

The other day I took him for a walk through the village and down to the beach, at half past six-ish in the evening. It was still pretty warm. Even though I took a bottle of water with me to keep giving him a drink, Milo just panted and puffed his way along. We popped in at the vets on the way home to say hello (Milo must be one of few dogs that actually gets excited about going to the vet and thoroughly loves her).

The clinic is located in a corner of the village that is dowsed in shade. Inside it is lovely and cool, with a tiled floor and fresh white walls. As soon as we walked in Milo threw himself on the floor and spread out like a grilled chicken to let the floor cool his tummy. Every now and then he'd do army-like shuffles across the floor to find a new cool patch. It was the quietest he's ever been at the vets. In fact the whole walk was quite a subdued affair.

So yet again we've adapted our routine to early(er) morning and late evening walks, so it's a bit cooler for him. And we make sure there's plenty of shade in the garden, fresh water with the odd ice cube in it, we hose down the grass so that's nice and fresh, and I sometimes give Milo a quick once-over with the hose-pipe to cool him off. But even so, during the day he only manages to muster up half the energy he used to, while at night he lets off all the pent-up oomph accumulated during the day and gets totally hyper. I'm regretting having bought him the squeaky carrot.

Anyway, I'm not going to complain as it's not half as bad as when the rain was pouring in buckets and we couldn't do anything with him - at least there's no lingering scent of wet dog in the house and paw-marks everywhere.

And speaking of the house, last weekend we painted and redecorated the whole lounge. We left Milo in the garden, cut off from the rest of the house by propping up some plastic fencing at the top of the garden stairs, held in place by a huge, heavy box of washing powder that we'd opened the day before.

Somehow Milo ended up at the top of the stairs and the box of washing powder at the bottom, with huge mounds of soft, snowy powder on each step in between. The clean-up mission took ages but never have our steps looks so brilliant white and smelt so citrus fresh! Milo was - quite literally - in the dog-house for the rest of the day.

This weekend he's going to put his social skills to the test at the International Algarve Fair. I'm quite excited to be honest. I would love to enter him in all the categories that he's eligible for; Waggiest Tail, the Big Sit, Best Recall (yeah, right), but I think we still need a bit of practice. Apart from that I'll be working most of the day. But maybe I'll enter him and my fiancée for best Dog/Owner Lookalike - long legs, big feet, broad chest and shoulders and blue eyes set in a stubborn, determined if somewhat absent stare… we've got to be onto a sure thing!

Carrie-Marie Bratley

Hi There !

MICHELLE and IBIZA, a Cocker and a cross Cocker, are both for adoption. Very gentle and friendly, 3-4 years old, sterilised and vaccinated, are both waiting in the shelter of Bianca Association in Sesimbra for a new home. To be adopted separately. We remind you that you will be able to meet us at the International Algarve Fair on 5-6 June. Please see our website: www.bianca.pt/english and contact us if you have any questions.

Michelle

Ibiza

LUCY is a lovely very young bitch (1 year old). She is very calm and gentle with people and children. She is quite a small dog and loves cuddles and long walks. She is good in the car and excellent with other dogs. Lucy has been tested negative for heartworm, wormed, delfead, vaccinated and she is spayed. Call Valerie for a visit 913 860 865 or lili10.evann@yahoo.fr

2 female kittens, 5/6 weeks old, 1 pure white, 1 tabby, both abandoned. Urgently need good homes, together or apart. Call 289561683

MISSING since 25th May from our house near Pincho (north of Bensafrim): Mother Sammy (3) and son Samson (1,5). Both are chipped. Sammy, black and tan, long tail. Samson, chestnut, very short tail and wearing red collar. PLEASE contact us when you have seen them or when you have more information! Paul and Jet van Oers 912 486 047 or 926 587 367.

Many puppies are waiting for a good loving home. They are very friendly and will be small to medium adult size. They have been wormed and deflead. Call Valerie for a visit 913 860 865 or lili10.evann@yahoo.fr

'Me & My Phone' children's art competition

Schoolchildren from across the Algarve have been invited to show off their artistic talents in this year's Children's Art Competition which this year is dedicated to the theme 'Me & My Phone', with prizes including mobile phones, sponsored by mobile network Optimus and The Portugal News' sister company World Telecom.

Works of art from children aged between five and 13 will be displayed at the upcoming International Algarve Fair Art Competition and will feature original interpretations of how children see their phone and what it means to them.

Fantastic prizes will be awarded to four winning pictures.

Three judges appointed by the Fair organisers (Mr. Michael Tannock, art critic and author of Portuguese 20th Century Artists', Rui Correia, Vice-Mayor of Lagoa Town Hall, and a sponsor representative) will be evaluating the art work based on the following criteria: relevance to subject, originality, artistic flair and ability.

The best of all the pictures will be exhibited at the International Algarve Fair, for the judges' appraisal.

The winning picture from each group, which will be announced on Sunday, will be awarded a top-of-the-range mobile phone prize, courtesy of Optimus.

Grand Draw

If you thought the International Algarve Fair was just about looking at the various exhibitors' stands, doing a bit a shopping, having a bite to eat at one of the many restaurants, enjoying live entertainment, learning something new at one of the live demonstrations or watching the dog show (amongst many other features), then you would be wrong! This year some outstanding prizes are waiting to be won, which could see you sailing away on the cruise of a lifetime.

On both days there will be a draw for prizes from, amongst others, LuzDoc, Ryanair Travel, Casa Bela Moura, Algarve Airsports Centre, and Barlavento Balloons.

Healthcare specialists LuzDoc are giving away a free nutrition consultation with expert Kathy Thornhill as well as a free consultation and first treatment in facial rejuvenation with acupuncturist Peter Hall.

Ryanair Travel are giving three pairs of return flights for two people to Memmingen, Madrid, Oporto, Paris Beauvais, or Billund (terms and conditions apply).

Two lucky people will win a one-hour flight in a Pioneer 200 aircraft, courtesy of the Algarve Airsports Centre.

Also on Saturday and Sunday there will be a draw for a flight in a hot-air balloon, courtesy of Barlavento Balloons, and Casa Bela Moura, of the Portugal Hospitality Group, is offering two, two-night 'get-away-from-it-all' packages for two at a 'Portugal Hospitality', with accommodation of your choice.

The Oceânico Group are supplying a round of golf for four players on their new O'Connor Course and also a round for four on the Faldo Course.

Leading hair-styling group Victor Picardo is offering a special pampering session, including a one-on-one consultation with a designer or style director, a cut and blow-dry, tint or partial highlights, a masque treatment, and a head massage.

Sheraton Algarve is giving away a voucher for a fabulous two-night stay for two at their Sheraton Algarve Hotel (Albufeira), including a buffet breakfast and complimentary access to health and fitness facilities (terms and conditions apply).

And then there is the Star Prize, a magnificent, seven-night Mediterranean cruise for two with Royal Caribbean International, generously offered by Melair Cruises.

Participating in the draw is free of charge. All visitors need do is take their Fair entrance ticket, which is purchased at the gate on entry, to the draw box, fill in the back with their details, and put it in the box!

After the daily prizes have been drawn, all tickets will be returned to the box for the last Star Prize Draw. So basically, all you have to do is visit the Fair. See you there and good luck!

As is evident, all the stops have been pulled out for this year's event and no expense has been spared, setting the International Algarve Fair 2010 well on the way to becoming one of the most interesting, all-encompassing fun and fantastic affairs that the Algarve has seen to date.

The International Algarve Fair takes place on the weekend of June 5th and 6th, from 10h00 till 19h00.

Entry tickets cost €3 per adult, children under-12 are free. Don't forget – with every entry ticket there is the opportunity to enter the fantastic Grand Prize Draw; additional prize draw tickets can be purchased from the exhibition office.

For more information, see website: www.algarvefair.com.

Daily Demos

These free demonstrations and forums will take place in the marquee in front of the Wine Show. Learn all the tips of the trade and a few tricks along the way from those in the know. Each session is expected to last between 15 and 20 minutes with a 10 minute Q & A session at the end.

SATURDAY

12:00 Nutritional Medicine…You Deserve to Know!! - LuzDoc
13:00 IT & The Future - Kurt Pardon of BlueChip
14:00 Preventive Healthcare – Vida Harmonia
15:00 Floral Decorating - Pamela Stafford Brown
16:00 Smokey Eyes Make-Up - Lara
17:00 Bonsai workshop with Wingarden

SUNDAY

12:00 Nutritional Medicine…You Deserve to Know!! - LuzDoc
13:00 Handcrafted cards - Susan Sobral
14:00 Weight Loss – Wendy Orsby
15:00 IT & The Future - BlueChip
16:00 Permanent Makeup - HairLounge

The Lesotho Wheel

The famous Fair Wheel has been put to several uses since it was first built six years ago. This year it will be used to raise money for the AIDS orphans in Lesotho.

Jill Kinsey was an Algarve resident for many years before she became a missionary in 1991. She has since established two childrens' centres in Semenkong and Pulane and her work depends on receiving funds from generous donors.

The wheel will be decorated with the faces of just a few of the orphans and you might meet some of the people who have been to Lesotho to help Jill and know the children personally. Three spins of the wheel will cost one euro and there are five delightful prizes to win. There will be a huge collecting bucket which we hope to fill over the two days!

Make the wheel your first port of call when you arrive at the Fair, it's opposite the entrance, you can't miss it!

The wheel in 2006

Entertainment Line-up

Entertainment is central to the International Algarve Fair. As much as we hope you will enjoy looking around the many stands, we know our visitors also look forward to all the other attractions which make their visit a really enjoyable day.

In the **Algarve Dog Show** area there will be displays and training and lots of other attractions for pet lovers. (see separate programme).

Around the stands area there will be two **parades** each day. If your children would like to dress up and join the parade, they can and join the fun!

And in the **ARENA,** on the main stage:

SATURDAY

11:30 An oportunity to get up close and personal with owls
12:10 Parade
12:30 Close-up Magic with the Mad Hatter
13:15 Dance demonstration by Ellen's Dance Girls
13:45 Fashion Show by Collections
14:15 Andy Mac Solo Saxophonist
15:15 An oportunity to get up close and personal with owls
15:45 Calvário Folklore Dance Ranch
16:15 Children's Fashion Show by Kids on Safari
16:45 Circo Pequeno Juggling Show and Workshop
18:10 Parade
18:30 Close-up Magic with the Mad Hatter
19:00 Grand Draw
19:45 Kat Blu from America (until at least 10pm)

SUNDAY

11:30 An oportunity to get up close and personal with owls
12:10 Parade
12:30 Close-up Magic with the Mad Hatter
13:15 Dance demonstration by Stars Karina
13:45 Calvário Folklore Dance Ranch
14:15 Trakinolas Children's Dance Lesson
15:15 An oportunity to get up close and personal with owls
15:45 Gwen Franco's Ballet School perform
16:15 Fashion Show by Collections
16:30 Circo Pequeno Juggling Show and Workshop
17:30 Parade
18:00 Close-up Magic with the Mad Hatter
18:30 'Jam Session' Various musicians
19:15 Grand Draw (including Star Prize of a Mediterranean Cruise)
19:30 'Jam Session' Guest musicians and lots of surprises (until at least 10pm)

Stay for dinner in the ARENA.
All restaurants will be open on Saturday and Sunday evening along with the entertainment.
Free entry at the gate after 19:00
Although we do our best to keep to the programme, there may be last minute alterations
Don't forget the special children's entertainment area in the ARENA and on the central grass area, where clowns, jugglers and magicians will be teaching children simple juggling and tricks.

take part in the GRAND DRAW

FREE with every entry ticket

Royal Caribbean International

STAR PRIZE
to be drawn on Sunday with ALL entry tickets
A 7 night RCI Mediterranean Cruise for 2
courtesy Melair Cruises

VICTOR PICARDO HairstylingGroup

Special pampering as follows: Consultation with Designer or Style Director • Cut and Blow Dry • Tint • Partial Highlights • Masque Treatment • Head Massage (Saturday & Sunday Draws)

RYANAIR

1 pair of return tickets (Saturday Draw) and 2 pairs of return tickets (Sunday Draw) to Memminghem, Madrid, Oporto, Paris or Billund.

Barlavento Balloons

Barlavento Ballons
Hot air balloon flight (Saturday & Sunday Draws)

www.portugalhospitality.com

2 nights get-away-from-it-all break for 2 at a "Portugal Hospitality" accommodation of choice. (Saturday & Sunday Draws)

Luzdoc

Consultation with nutritionist Kathy Thornhill (Saturday Draw)
Free consultation and 1° treatment in facial rejuvenation with acupuncturist Peter Hall (Sunday Draw)

SHERATON ALGARVE
A LUXURY COLLECTION HOTEL
Albufeira

one voucher for a 2 night stay for two including breakfast and complimentary access to health and fitness facilities (Saturday Draw)

oceânico GROUP

4 X Ball on the O'Connor course (Saturday draw)
4 X Ball on the Faldo Course (Sunday Draw)

Algarve Airsports Centre

1 hour flight in a Pioneer 200 aircraft (Saturday & Sunday Draws)

All prizes subject to terms &conditions

PRIZES will be drawn both days at close of Fair

PROPERTY

A weekly guide to the latest and the best properties on the market in Portugal • The *Portugal* News • 5 Jun 2010

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

Two bedroom apartment in Vilamoura

This week's featured property is located in Vilamoura and is a great investment opportunity for potential buyers, with several amenities nearby combined with the safety of living in a complex making it a great buy.

This charming two bedroom ground floor apartment is located in a very quiet and residential area of Vilamoura and is within walking distance to the Marina. It's proximity to the Pinhal Golf Course, a five minute walk, is also one of the property's great advantages.

It is a very well kept property and it possesses a large private garden with a lovely terrace and a barbeque area, ideal for hot summer days. Inside, the kitchen is fully equipped and the lounge has a cosy feeling about it, with the fireplace adding to it. The bedrooms are of good size and have windows overlooking the garden. The apartment is air-conditioned throughout, keeping it cool during the summer months.

It is inserted in a complex with large green areas and; private parking and use of the communal swimming pool come with the purchase. Safety is also a bonus.

Being located within walking distance from Vilamoura Marina, all amenities are nearby and you will never be far from the action, but far enough to be in quiet surroundings.

This property, reference number A102657, is being sold for €255,000. For more information please contact Sérgio, from Algarve Property, on 912 269 538, call the office on 289 310 310, visit their website www.algarveproperty.com or email sergio@algarveproperty.com.

LOOKING TO SELL? NEED A NEW APPROACH?

Our **extensive list of UK and European buyers and agents** are looking for **Algarve** and **Silver Coast Properties in 2010**. We are seeking sellers and developers who are keen to sell their properties as soon as possible. Revitalise your marketing with our tried and trusted methods.

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- Access to our broker and agent networks
- Access to our social media marketing including Twitter &Facebook
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- A positive approach that serves you well
- Pre qualified buyers who are waiting for the right property
- We are AIPP agents so you are in safe hands

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SOLD

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between Loulé and S. Brás

AMI 6392

Castro Marim
- Lovely traditional house
- Views Guadiana & Spain
- 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms
- Large attic / extra rooms
- Garage, garden, trees
- Cott 160m² plot 1.800m²

Ref. C1277
Price: € 285.000

Alcoutim
- Lovely character property
- By the Guadiana river
- Spectacular river views
- 3 bedrooms 1 bathroom
- Extra land 760m² by river
- Villa 130m² Plot 387m²

Ref. C1302
Price: € 299.500

Salir
- Ideal B&B Guest House
- Spacious accommodation
- 5 bedrooms 3 bathrooms
- Plus large basement
- Space for pool & terraces
- Villa 486m² Plot 3.450m²

Ref. V1122
Price: € 375.000

São Brás de Alportel
- Attractive spacious villa
- Residential, country view
- 3 bedrooms 3 bathrooms
- Garage, garden, air-co
- Pool 8m x 4m, terrace
- Villa 252m² plot 1.000m²

Ref. V1289
Price Reduced: € 445.000

Santa Bárbara de Nexe
- Beautiful spacious villa
- Lovely garden, sea views
- 4 bedrooms 3 bathrooms
- Air-co, c/heating, garage
- Pool, jacuzzi, terraces
- Villa 220m² plot 2.400m²

Ref. V1351
Price: € 695.000

RE/MAX Smart

RE/MAX smart AMI 7433

Do you want to buy or sell a property?
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Telm.: (+351) 962 191 421
pcaqueiro@remax.pt
I speak: Portuguese, English and Norwegian
Remax Smart - Boliqueime

Balaia Golf Village
Magnificent 1 bedroom apartment, in the privat condominium Balaia Golf Village in Albufeira. Gardens, swimming pools, tennis courts and a golf course all in the same condominium. A few minutes from the beach. Feel the difference, BOOK YOUR VISIT!
Ref.: 122261080-14
Price: € 900 month (Long term rental)

Olhos D'Água – Surfal
Excellent 1 bedroom apartment situated in a very quiet residential area and just a few minutes walk from Falésia beach. This apartment is located in the ground floor and has its own entrance. Apartment with good areas and a spacious storage room in the basement of the building.
Ref.: 122261080-15
Price: € 115.000

Boliqueime
Excellent T2 apartment in the quiet "Vila de Boliqueime". Composed by: one living-room, kitchen, two bedrooms (one is a suite with private bath), one WC, balcony with country view, common wide terrace with BBQ and common swimming pool. This apartment is equiped w/ heated floor.
Ref.: 122261080-16
Price: € 195.000

S. Brás de Alportel
Excellent 2 bedroom apartment, ground floor, situated in a residential area in S. Brás de Alportel. It has a parking place in the garage and storage room on the roof. Excellent price, very good business opportunity.
Ref.: 122261080-17
Price: € 99.500

Querença – Sítio da Amendoeira
Beautiful town house situated only 6 km from Loulé. This house is situated in a very quiet place. Lots of potential.

Ref.: 122261080-8
Price: € 150.000

VILAGENTE

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vilagente@mail.telepac.pt
www.vendavilla.com

Vilamoura
Recently Reduced!!! Spacious apartment composed of 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge w/ dining area, equipped kitchen, laundry & terraces. Parking space in basement. Communal swimming pool & garden. Sea view. Constr. area, approx. 153 sq.m.
Ref: A1247 Price: € 260.000,00

Fonte Santa
Located in a private condominium, 2 bedroom apartment composed of 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge with dining area, equipped kitchen, storage and terraces. Communal swimming pool and garden area. Construction area approx. 89 sq.m.
Ref: A1376 Price: € 140.000,00

Vale Judeu
Attractive country villa composed of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge with fireplace, dining room, kitchen & storage. Roof terrace & carport. Swimming pool & garden. Furnished & equipped. Plot area approx. 350 sq.m. Construction area approx. 115 sq.m.
Ref: V12649 Price: € 365.000,00

Quarteira
Beautiful villa, in quiet area, composed of 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge w/ dining area, equipped kitchen & various terraces. Garage & garden. Plot area approx. 650 sq.m. Construction area approx. 225 sq.m. Plot in annex w/ viability for construction w/ an area of 618 sq.m.
Ref: V12661 Price: € 500.000,00

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AMI 6232 - Val. 18.11.2010

For detailed information, please visit our website:

www.landandhousesalgarve.com
www.algarve-property-search.com

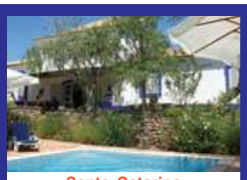
Tavira: 281 320 281
Vilamoura: 289 301 294

Tavira
New 5 bedroom villa w/ large pool & small lake enjoying sea views & privacy on landscaped plot of 15.560 m2. Living area of 307 m2 & basement of 192 m2. High quality construction and specifications. Easy access.

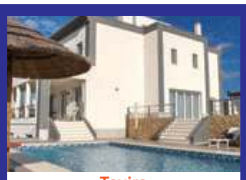
Ref: LHV-937 Price: € 1.200.000

Estoi
Unique, modern, split-level villa with pool & guesthouse offering privacy & breathtaking views towards the coast. Covered area: 360 m2, plot: 2140 m2. enjoying Good quality construction.

Ref: LHV-1063 Price: € 1.200.000



Santa Catarina
Lovely 4-bedroom quinta (265 m2) with many typical Portuguese features. Swimming pool & beautiful gardens. Plot of 9840 m2. Spacious double-height living area. Easy road access. Good value for money.
Ref: LHV-866 Price: € 590.000
(Reduced from € 799.000)



Tavira
Luxurious 4 bedroom villa (430 m2 covered area) with swimming pool on preferred location in Tavira. Large living room with adjacent dining area, Italian design kitchen, high quality building materials and finishing. Plot of 1074 m2 enjoying country views.
Ref: LHV-901 Price: € 749.000

Near São Brás
Offers invited! Outstanding 3-bedroom villa (177 m2) with pool & garage (41 m2) set on a 2500 m2 plot offering far-reaching views. Tastefully chosen materials, under floor heating, air-conditioning. Worth a viewing.
Ref: LHV-1066 Price: € 465.000

Abode
AMI 1278

Sociedade de Mediação Imobiliária, Lda.
Edifício "O Galeão", Loja 3, Rua dos Pescadores
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3 bed, 3 bath villa with pool, gardens & terraces. Electric gates, borehole, stone drive. 263m² villa. 6,160m² plot. Close to all amenities, road networks and Porches International school. €480,000.

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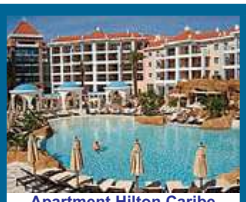
Villa Abs
Beautiful 4 Bedroom Detached villa located on a quiet cul-de-sac with stunning views overlooking the "Old Course" golf course. The villa is sold fully furnished and offers air-con, radiator heating and central fireplace.
Price: € 1,100,000

Villa Lynx
4 Bedroom Detached Villa overlooking the "Pinhal" golf course. This villa is sold fully furnished with games room and wine cellar and is located in a quite cul-de-sac about a 15 minute walk to the marina.
Price: € 675,000

Apartment Falesia
2 Bedroom/2 Bathroom apartment overlooking large communal swimming pool surrounded by landscaped gardens. The apartment comes fully furnished and is around a 15 minute walk to the marina and beach.
Price: € 205,000



Apartment Hilton Caribe
This beautiful 2 Bedroom apartment on the exclusive Hilton Resort complex in Vilamoura is sold fully furnished w/ access to the various indoor & outdoor swimming pools, Gym, Spa, Tennis Courts & various restaurants & bars.
Price: € 450,000

Villa Amarylis
Newly completed 5 Bedroom Detached Villa on large plot of over 3,767m2 w/ gym, cinema room, separate self contained 1 bedroom annex on a beautiful pine tree cul-de-sac. The villa is of ultra modern design w/ green technology & spacious light areas.
Price: € 2,900,000

ESTE ALGARVE

AMI 504

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Fax: 281 370 761
geral@estealgarve.com
www.estealgarve.com

Renovated Cottage Near Santa Catarina
Charmingly renovated cottage with 2 bedrooms, above ground pool, large roof terrace, with lovely views of the sea and countryside, separate large storeroom, situated in a quiet little hamlet 5 min. from Santa Catarina, 20 min. from Tavira.
EA 034 RCSCAT – € 199.000

Neighbourhood Castro Marim
Spacious 3 bedroom villa (320 m2) with air con. and garage on a plot of 655 m2 with lovely garden area (sufficient for a pool) and automatic. irrigation, situated within an attractive urbanization, 3 kms from Castro Marim, golf course and long, sandy beach of Praia Verde, 6 km from Vila Real.
EA 001 VCM – Price: € 270.000

House – Estorninhos - Tavira
Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom bungalow style house w/ large east, south & west facing terraces. Lovely garden w/ 980m². Stunning views of sea & countryside, in beautiful surroundings, 20 mins. drive from beach, golf-course and Tavira. To be sold partly furnished and equipped.
EA 033 HEST – € 229.000

Apartment – Cabanas
Very well located in a little side road of Cabanas centre, close to the lagoon, acess to the beach, commerce and public transport. This high quality one bedroom apartment is located on the ground-floor with a nice private patio area.
EA 033 ACAB – € 110.000

Villa Quelfes
Comfortable 3 bedroom villa with conservatory, garage, above ground swimming pool and solar panels on a fenced plot of 457 m2 of pretty garden, situated in a quiet residential area within walking distance to ameneties, 5 min. to Olhão and island.
EA: 035 VQU – € 315.000

kasas
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VILAMOURA
V92471
Located in prestigious area of Vilamoura, inside the Millennium/Laguna Golf Course. 1.164 sq.m. plot w/ 560 sq.m. constructed area. 3 en-suite bedrooms. Furnished & equipped. A/c. Alarm sys. Fabulous south facing garden w/ sw. pool & BBQ area. Enormous 270 sq.m. basement w/ games room & garage for several cars. Fantastic panoramic golf & sea views. Excellent letting potential.
Price: € 1.525.000,00

VILAMOURA
A71937
Very spacious one bed apartment excellently located inside the Millennium/ Laguna Golf Course. Gated community with beautiful landscaped garden and salt water swimming pool. Fully furnished and equipped. Air conditioning. Two bathrooms. Underground parking space for one car and one storage. Large South/West facing terrrace with views over the garden and pool area. Opportunity!
Price: € 205.000,00

CARVOEIRO
V92416
Prime location inside prestigious golf resort. Four bedroom villa located on unique location fully furnished and equipped. 1.504 sq.m. plot with 300 sq.m. of constructed area. Top quality finishes. Air conditioning. Electric shutters. Alarm system. Central heating system. Large landscaped garden with heated pool and jacuzzi. Fabulous views over the Golf Course. (7th Tee). Very exclusive.
Price: € 895.000,00

SEMINO
MG92602
Brand new 4 bedroom (2 en-suite) semi-detached villa in quiet area near Vilamoura & Golfing Resort of Vila Sol. 405 sq.m plot w/ 297 sq.m constr. area. Garden w/ a BBQ area. Excellent finishes. Living w/ fireplace. Laundry room. Pre install. for A/c & solar. Alarm sys. Garage for 1 car. Investment opportunity!
Price € 360.000,00

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Boliqueime
Wonderful cosy private 2 bedroom one level villa with private swimming pool remodelled and sold furnished. Great Rental investment or lovely home. A Nice opportunity.
Ref 2439 – Price € 295,000

Vilamoura
Wonderful Modern attached new 3 bedroom spacious villa w/ large terraces, open garden areas & large communal sw. pool. Pre installed alarm, A/c, central heating, central vacuum sys, fully fitted kitchen.Private parking. Nice views, Quiet area , yet very central to Vilamoura.
Ref 1300I1 – Price € 370,000

Vilamoura
Fabulous apartment located just minutes from the beach & Marina offering stunning views to the sea & Marina at the highest point of Vilamoura. Well cared for apartment converted into a small one bed apartment with everything thought of. Sold fully furnished.
Ref 2907 – Price €89,000

Boliqueime
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Oriental mustards

Give your salads a peppery kick by growing some easy Oriental mustards such as 'Red Giant' and 'Pizzo'.

Sow seeds thinly in drills 10cm apart from May to August where you want the crops to grow and then thin them out when they are big enough to 15-20cm (6-8in) apart.

Red mustard (Chinese mustard 'Red Giant') has bronzy-red leaves, while mizuna (Japanese greens) has glossy, serrated, dark green leaves and narrow white stalks, looking good in flower beds and as edging.

It's best to pick the leaves young when they are pleasantly spicy rather than excessively hot when they mature.

Chinese mustard is vigorous, adaptable and easy to grow in most soils. Keep plants watered and well weeded, protect from slugs and snails and in the right conditions you should have crops within 30 days.

Start picking Chinese mustard as soon as the leaves look big enough, and pick tender central leaves of mizuna on a cut-and-come again basis from June onwards.

Peppers

Sow some delicious sweet peppers to give you a real taste of the Mediterranean during summer. You can sow seeds at a temperature of between 21-27C.

Around late May to early June the seedlings can be pricked out when they are big enough to handle and grown-on in individual small pots, before planting in the ground in a warm, sunny spot. Remember, they cannot tolerate cold.

Water them after planting and then sparingly until they start to flower or bear fruit, whereupon you should feed them weekly with liquid tomato feed and support them with canes.

Chamomile

Fresh chamomile can make a calming, soothing drink in the summer, while its flowers can be used to simply add a bit of colour to the patio table, and it is extremely easy to grow.

You may have only experienced Chamaemelum 'Treneague', which is the non-flowering variety used for planting up as a lawn, but the flowering type, Roman chamomile, is also available.

Buy a pot of it from a nursery or garden centre and plant it outside in a warm, sunny, well-drained soil or decorative pot on the patio.

Roman chamomile (C. nobile) looks similar to the lawn variety, except that it bears white, daisy flowers on feathery 25-30cm stalks.

Another type, 'Flore Pleno', has double white flowers on shorter stalks.

You can make chamomile tea by pouring boiling water over the dried flowers in a jug and leaving it for a few minutes before straining it into a cup and adding a slice of lemon.

Spring cabbage

Cabbage is the most underrated of vegetables, probably due to the fact that so many people overcook it - which not only makes it limp and tasteless, but leaves a pungent smell in the kitchen.

But it adds crunchy texture to stir-fries and is fantastic lightly steamed with a knob of butter and plenty of black pepper. Now is the time to plant out spring cabbages to provide delicious small, pointed cabbages or spring greens in April and May, when not much else is around.

Seeds should be sown in July and August, and then can be planted 15cm apart in rows 30cm apart. Cabbages need a sunny site and firm soil, with the addition of well-rotted manure well in advance of planting. Spring cabbages should be grown slowly in a sheltered spot.

Protect the seedlings from birds, water young plants in dry weather, and in autumn earth up the stems of spring cabbage. In winter, firm down any plants loosened by wind or frost.

Thin out the spring cabbage rows in March and leave the remaining ones to heart up for cutting in April or May. When harvesting, cut the stems with a sharp knife near to ground level and cut a 1cm deep cross into the stumps to encourage a secondary crop of small cabbages. Good varieties include 'Duncan' and 'Wheeler's Imperial'.

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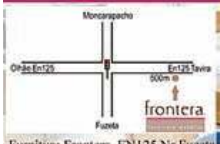

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Bedspreads Factory Outlet, was founded in 1989 after the owners discovered a gap in the market for good quality textiles, these were being made in Portugal but were not available anywhere in the country of origin!!!

After extensive research and much cajoling of manufacturers in northern Portugal the brand was born!

Having begun the hard way at the 'gypsy markets', Patrick and Linda Hall learnt exactly what the local population was looking for and bought accordingly.

After several years they opened their first Outlet in Albufeira, a couple of years later they moved to the quaint village of Alvor, in 2008 they opened the Outlet in Lagoa next to the petrol station Total on the En 125, with parking right outside.

They now stock everything in good quality textiles you would need for setting up home here / refurbishing/ renting.

As everything is made in Portugal they can fit ANY size bed, with fitted sheets, mattress protectors, duvets, duvet covers, blankets, pillows, pillow protectors, mattress toppers are also available at low low prices, pillowcases, towels, bathmats, curtains, dressing gowns to name just a few products.

If you are setting up home, refurbishing or just living here check out the best that Portugal has to offer.

The quality is the very best, they are a proper factory outlet, and keep the prices low by buying direct form the best textile manufacturers... with all the scares around about what is put into textile products from other countries, it is good to know that your bedding has not been made by child labour, or in a sweat shop half way around the world, stuffed full of chemicals, and on washing unusable. Their products wash and last for years and years and years in fact you can get sick of them long before they have worn out!

Lets face it we all came here because we love the country and the people, support the local economy by buying Portuguese products, textile factories have been hit hard in the North of the country with massive unemployment and hardship affecting all classes of society. Linda and Patrick could now buy so much cheaper from the UK with the failing pound BUT as they say" how can we guarantee our quality if we buy from the UK where many products are imported from dubious sources?"

Also, our consciences have to be clear about how and where the products are made, most of all customer satisfaction is paramount!!

Many people make the mistake of bringing their linen over from the UK, struggling with weight allowances only to find that the sheets do not fit the beds here don't be one of them.

Don't give your hard earned money to the airline companies , but, put it back into your adopted country which needs it!!!!!!

Bedspreads are exhibiting at the International Algarve Fair, stand number 108.

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Odexlar: Fantastic cleaning products

When you work with chemicals on a daily basis, it is easy to forget just how dangerous these products can be. The tendency is to forget to treat them with the respect they deserve, and painful injuries are often the result.

Cleaning products are a good example. Most of us use cleaning products fairly frequently, at work and at home. But how many of us actually bother reading the directions or product contents? How many of us use rubber gloves or splash goggles?

Many cleaning products are classified as "corrosive". Corrosives are defined as those chemicals that cause damage to organic material, especially human flesh. Acids and bases are all corrosive, and most cleaners are composed of acids and bases. Think about it: when cleaning, you're trying to "eat" away the dirt and grime. Most likely, the more effective a product is at eating away the dirt, the more effective it will be at eating away the skin on your hands. It will also do more damage if accidentally splashed in your eyes.

Cleaning products can also be extremely reactive when mixed. Bleach, when mixed with any product containing ammonia (or vice versa), will react to produce deadly chlorine gas. **NEVER MIX CHEMICALS, ESPECIALLY CLEANING PRODUCTS**. Some people think that if something works well by itself, it might work even better if combined with something else..... **Wrong**!!! Even emptying a mop bucket with a product containing ammonia into the sink, followed by a sponge full of bleach, can produce enough chlorine gas to be dangerous.

Take whatever steps are necessary to avoid mixing cleaning products. Always run clean water through a drain after dumping any sort of cleaning product down it. Wear rubber gloves, especially when using industrial strength cleaners. If there's any chance of getting a splash in the eye, wear protective goggles. If you do get a chemical splashed in your eye, flush it in clean water for at least 15 minutes. Always use common sense to protect yourself, and treat all chemicals with the respect they deserve.

Odexlar are the cleaning products connoisseurs and possess not only the know-how, but also a vast range of professional products and equipments suited to this area. Their products allow an effective and safe use for all users and cleaning professionals.

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Tofts painting and decorating service

The heat is now out in full force, making it the ideal time to think about refreshing your property, by decorating, renovating or painting, in order to have it ready for the busy summer season. The dry weather and high temperatures make it the ideal time for painting and general maintenance; both of which Tofts painting and decorating service excel at.

With the aim of improving their range of services and complete a job to the highest standards, Tofts now use heavy machinery when needed, such as resorting to a cherry-picker to reach high points of a house and using high powered jet blasters to chip off dry and decayed paint, making the job look that crucial extra bit better at the end.

The professional and friendly team work all around the Algarve and provide specialist materials for walls and roofs, as well as carrying out the usual facelifts, painting and general maintenance.

Small general maintenance jobs can also be undertaken, like varnishing, waterproofing, damp-proofing, and ironwork.

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Tofts service is not geared to a superficial makeover; it is dependable, punctual, thorough, and well thought out to give superior results. No job is too large or too small, and, if in doubt, just ask!

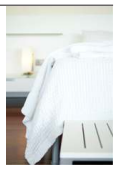
Regarding painting, all customers need to do is choose the colour they want and Tofts will efficiently and professionally do the rest, both on the inside and the outside. Free assessments, colour charts and samples can be provided on request.

Having lived in the Algarve for many years, Paul has the know-how and knowledge of Portuguese construction, making it easier to repair and maintain properties to the highest levels, offering reliable, lasting solutions.

Paul truly dedicates himself to the job at hand and cleanliness is one of his priorities when working on site, even whilst the job progresses.

"And don't forget, it's Tofts with an S!" says Paul Tofts.

THIS WEEK'S PROFILES



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J. Craig Venter Institute in San Diego, California, USA, shows genome-mapping pioneer J. Craig Venter (L) and Dr. Hamilton Smith in their lab. Scientists announced on 20 May 2010 that they produced a living cell powered by manmade DNA, a step towards the possibility of constructing artificial life. Venter said his team's project paves the way for the ultimate, much harder goal: designing organisms that work differently from the way nature intended for a wide range of uses such as turning algae into fuel. (Photo: EPA/J. Craig Venter Institute)

Venter's Baby

"This is both a baby step and a giant step," said scientist and venture capitalist Craig Venter as he revealed that his team had created the first "synthetic cell". "It's a giant step because, until this was done, it was only hypothetical that it could work. It's a baby step in terms of all the distance we have to go before you can buy fuel made from carbon dioxide or have new medicines or new sources of food."

But it's a lot more of a baby step than a giant step, because the feat of synthesising the rather simple, single chromosome of a bacteria was not new; his own team had done it. Neither was transplanting the chromosome of one kind of bacteria into a different kind of bacteria (after removing the latter cell's original chromosome), and persuading the resulting organism to reproduce. His team had already done that too, as had many other people.

Now they have done both things together, which is quite impressive, but not exactly ground-breaking. If Venter is "playing God," as the usual suspects immediately accused him of doing, it is a fairly minor god from a dead religion – Vucub Punahu, perhaps, or Bragi. But he does understand the art of self-promotion.

Well, fair enough: if you're in business, you have to promote yourself. When big players like ExxonMobil, the US Department of Energy and major pharmaceutical companies have poured non-trivial amounts of money into your research, you have to show impressive results on a regular basis. And he really is doing very good work. Just not world-shaking – yet.

One small but significant detail tells us where he really is in his research, relative to his declared goals of making fuel from carbon dioxide and creating new medicines and new sources of food. It is the fact that he synthesised not a completely new chromosome, capable of doing wonderful new things, but an exact copy of the chromosome of an existing bacteria, Mycoplasma mycoides. (It causes mastitis in goats.)

This humble circular chromosome contains 1,080,000 "letters" of the four-letter genetic alphabet, which must be read in exactly the right sequence in order to create a functioning example of the bacteria in question. Venter's scientists got only one "letter" wrong, and when they transplanted the chromosome into the Mycoplasma capricolum cell that had been prepared to receive it, the damn thing wouldn't live and reproduce.

After three months of trying, they found the error and corrected it. They transplanted the accurate version of the M. mycoides chromosome into the empty M. capricolum cell, and lo! It lived. Not only that, but it reproduced about a billion times, and all the daughter cells were M. mycoides. You could give a goat mastitis with them, if you wanted.

So what did Venter accomplish, exactly? He successfully copied an entire existing chromosome and transplanted it into another cell. That is a very, very long way from designing your own chromosomes, in order to create organisms that eat pollution, or make huge quantities of some needed vaccine, or take in carbon dioxide and put out an octane fuel. One wrong letter in a million, and the thing won't live.

That is not to say that he can never get there. He, or somebody else, probably will get there in the next five or ten years. But they won't get there very fast if they are trying to do radically new things with the genetic make-up of bacteria. And for less than radical changes, as Dr Gos Micklem of Cambridge University said, "there is already a wealth of simple, cheap, powerful and mature techniques for genetically engineering a range of organisms."

This new technology's time will definitely come. Some of the things it may be able to do, like provide us with a cost-effective, carbon-neutral source of fuel for our vehicles, are so desirable and so hard to achieve by any other means that the resources will be made available for this research no matter how much it costs. If there's any doubt about that now, there will certainly be none once climate change really starts to bite

As for "playing God" or "creating life," get over it. This is just one or two steps more down a road that we have been travelling for a long time already.

Gwynne Dyer is a London based independent journalist whose articles are published in 45 countries.

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Citröen pulls rabbit out of hat

Citroen DS3 is stylish, well-equipped and luxurious. Patterned carpets, coloured seat inlays and dashes of chrome add to the overall upmarket feel.

It has been some time since Mini could claim to have the market cornered for trendy city cars boasting both style and substance, but the fashionable high-streets currently dominated by the ever-expanding Mini range, the Alfa Romeo Mito and the smaller but all-conquering Fiat 500 are about to become even more lively with the arrival of the Citroen DS3.

When a production model resembles its concept predecessor so closely it is a sure sign that the manufacturer is about to try something new. With the C3 up-dated for the new decade and the recent arrival of the practical but creatively styled C3 Picasso taking care of the volume compact hatchback and compact MPV sector, the DS3 is a new attempt to break into the premium compact hatchback sector with a stylish, well-equipped and generally more luxurious model.

At first glance, Citroen appears to have cracked it. There are bold styling gestures that may or may not be immediately liked and that may or may not grow on car-buyers over time, but as a package the DS3 is every bit as attractive and arguably more forward thinking in its design than its rivals.

Unlike some of the competition the DS3 is not a modern take on past glories. Attempting to be a design classic in its own right, the model can hardly be accused of trading on its name either. Car historians and Citroen fanatics may raise an eyebrow at the re-kindling of the DS moniker, but the French manufacturer is not claiming the DS3 is a modern interpretation of the fifties style icon. The DS4 and DS5 models that will follow shortly will make no such claims, either.

The intention of the DS sub (or uber) brand is visible in the lack of Citroen chevrons on the rear. A special DS badge takes their place, marking the DS line-up out as a range in its own right. That said, the visual similarities to the Citroen C3 are present inside and out, but DS3 customers can expect a far greater degree of customisation from their cars. Citroen has retooled its factory especially to deal with two-tone bodywork and roof decals of the DS3.

The basic layout of the DS3 interior is familiar from the standard new C3, but there are more than enough additions to make the luxury model feel just that. Dashboards can be specified in a range of colours and shapely interior panels are soft to touch and lined with more exuberant materials. Patterned carpets, coloured seat inlays and dashes of chrome add to the upmarket feel. Recessed dials are complimented with internally lit needles that jump into life when the engine starts.

With the range-topping 154bhp turbocharged petrol engine drivers will also be met with an appealing, sporty exhaust note. The engine, the result of a partnership between Peugeot, Citroen and BMW proves well suited to the DS3 in 150 THP form, making the car feel far keener than the Citroen C3.

The crisp gear change and responsive, well-weighted steering help, too. The suspension is firm and the DS3 can be chucked into bends with confidence, but it's also damped to deal with rougher surfaces even on the DSport model's 17-inch wheels. As a compromise between city driving and the open road it's hard to fault.

The DS3 shouldn't prove a struggle to live with, either. The boot is very accommodating and, while the three-door body naturally restricts access to the rear, it will suit for two adult over shorter journeys. The chunky B-pillar may spoil their view somewhat, but visibility from the driver's seat is very good and the front passenger benefits from a recessed glove compartment that allows extra legroom.

Three trim levels - DSport, DStyle, DSign - are available dependant on engine choice and there are enough customisation opportunities to give the DS3 a truly bespoke feel. A 99g/km CO2 emitting model should also attract attention from fashionable city car fans. Tax-free status could be as appealing as the floating roof and LED running lamps.

It is more than adequately equipped to tackle the competitive but lucrative premium small car segment in the styling stakes, but the DS3's enjoyable driving experience and neat packaging give it more than just high street chic.

Source: PA/TPN

Model: Citroen DS3 1.6 THP 150 Sport, Ä23.900,00 on the road.
Engine: 1.6-litre petrol unit developing 154bhp and 240 Nm of torque.
Transmission: Six speed manual transmission, driving the front wheels.
Performance: Top speed: 214 kph, 0-100kph: 7.3 seconds.
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Keep cool in hip and fashionable

A view of Reykjavik, Iceland.

"If I don't come back, it's probably best not to follow me," our guide says as, axe in hand, he cautiously navigates around the boulder of ice that blocks our route.

We are standing on the tongue of a glacier in the south of Iceland, the rain and fog hampering our vision as it hammers down.

Jet black layers of volcanic ash jut up, covering the ice, hundreds of metres thick, as we slowly make our way across the glacier, steering clear of the many crevices and cracks that are scattered across the ever-changing landscape.

Nothing dissolves a hangover as fast as the need to concentrate, yet we are just two hours away from the capital, Reykjavik, where bars and restaurants thrive during summer nights.

Small, but perfectly formed, the buzzing city centre sees the day's coffee bars transformed into vibrant venues packed with crowds at night.

All the action takes place around Laugavegur, the main street running through the compact city, with revellers flitting from one bar to the other as many of the clubs open till 5am - and there's no shortage of variety to the venues.

NASA, an impressive club playing music from disco to house over three floors, offers only a small stage but attracts some of the best live music in the country.

The barn-like Jacobsen offers techno and electro beats that keep revellers thriving all night, while the cosy Kaffibarinn, perched on a sloping side street, is reputedly one of the coolest bars in the city.

The bar is part-owned by Blur's Damon Albarn, and it's no wonder that it draws crowds from far and wide. Walk past the London Underground sign above the front door and plenty of jostling is the norm on weekends as the bar heaves with revellers - but once you get used to that, and the craziness, it is great fun.

Meanwhile, the bar at the upmarket Sir Terence Conran's Rex is elegant with its high ceilings and chandeliers, and Cafe Solon is just one of the many popular cafes and bistros that turn into impromptu nightclubs later in the evening and at weekends.

The collapse of the Icelandic banking system halved the value of the Icelandic krona and plunged the prices in many bars towards the sort of levels that have been seen in the UK - this is one of the few places in Europe where Britons clutching pounds feel well off.

The locals are warm and welcoming, too. Many still choose to kick the night off with a few drinks at home first, only heading to the bars and clubs around midnight.

And for the way home, the famous Baejarins Beztu hot dog stand lies near the harbour with its picture of former US President Bill Clinton eating one of its finest specimens in the window.

However, after taking part in a night of midsummer madness in the land of fire and ice, one of the best places for a morning of relaxation and recovery can be found at the Blue Lagoon. Fêted for their healing power and set in the heart of a lava field, the soft milky waters of the silica-rich geothermal spa are an inviting 39C.

When you are ready to face the day, venture beyond the capital to experience the country's real treasures. Driving out from the capital had a moon-like quality with the rocky, black lava fields surrounding our coach as the driver faced a wall of rain and fog which severely limited his visibility.

During a break in the weather,

The Blue Lagoon, Reykjavik, Iceland.

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Reykjavik

we saw a lone farmhouse at the bottom of a steep cliff-face, just a thin row of trees protecting its occupants from the almost-inevitable landslide.

Another visual feast is the Solheimajokull glacier tongue, just two hours away from Reykjavik, which is an awesome sight.

Some 8km long, the ever-moving block of ice, up to 600m deep in places, is an unforgiving environment. Our mountain guide, Bjorgvin - carrying ropes and climbing gear in case one of our group takes an unexpected detour into one of the many fissures - said the landscape is changing so much that each time he returns to it, it is different.

The ice is retreating at a rate of 100 metres per year as it melts, and strong streams, draining off snowfields high on the Myrdalsjokull volcano, undercut and erode the glacier from below.

And the harsh environment is no place for the unprepared.

"Listen up. It's not a walk in the park," said Bjorgvin as he gave us our first instructions and checked that we all knew how to use our kit.

Even with crampons, axes, waterproofs, and several layers of warm clothes, biting winds and driving rain left some of our group soaked to the skin with painfully cold hands.

But what an experience! While sitting on the fault line between two tectonic plates, you come to realise that Iceland is the most geologically active country in Europe.

Icelanders take living in such a challenging environment entirely in their stride, and it makes for the ultimate weekend outdoors.

Walking on a sheet of ice so slippery that just standing up would be a problem without crampons, we were easily able to enjoy the walk as we took in the ice sculptures, ridges and icy caverns en-route.

With the Arctic Circle just 25 miles to its north, the plunging winter temperatures, from October to May, also bring the awe-inspiring sight of the Northern Lights.

Pictured above : The northern lights seen over Reykjavik, Iceland, and below left: Revellers enjoying a night at 'NASA', Reykjavik,

Otherwise known as the Aurora Borealis, they produce shimmering lightshows in the night sky that can dazzle observers. But with a clear, cold night - and a splash of luck - needed to see them, this was one of those occasions when we knew we were out of luck.

Key facts

:: Best for: Mix of outdoor adventure and lively night scene.

:: Time to go: Reykjavik nightlife thrives in summer, and October to May offers the best chance to see Northern Lights.

:: Don't miss: Dropping blocks of ice into one of the many fissures in the glacier, waiting in vain for the sound of it hitting the bottom.

:: Need to know: Some banks and bureaux de change won't accept leftover Icelandic krona, so don't order too much beforehand.

:: Don't forget: Waterproofs, warm clothes and a good pair of trainers or walking boots are essential for a glacier hike.

Travel facts:

Wesley Johnson flew with Iceland Express, which flies daily ex-Gatwick to Reykjavik from £89/€104 single, including taxes and the airline also operates a twice-weekly service ex-Stansted to Reykjavik, also £89/€104. This summer, new Iceland Express routes include Birmingham-Reykjavik also from £89/€104 one way and Gatwick-Akureyri services starting in June, both from £89/€104 one way. Reservations: 00 44 (0)118 321 8384 and www.icelandexpress.com.

Discover The World offers three-night Reykjavik breaks from £303/€355, with seven-night Southern Highlights self-drive stay from £585/€685, including flights, car hire and B&B accommodation. Departures ex-London, Manchester and Glasgow. Discover The World: tel. 00 44 (0)1737 218 800 and also at: www.discover-the-world.co.uk.

Take a Walk on Ice Side glacier hiking trip organised by Reykjavik Excursions. Information: www.re.is and 00 354 580 5400.

Wesley also visited The Blue Lagoon, on 00354 420 8800 and www.bluelagoon.com, price £20/€23 per visit. He stayed at CenterHotel Arnarhvoll, with doubles from £57/€67 per night. reservations: 00354 595 8540 and www.centerhotels.com/our-hotels/hotel-arnarhvoll/.

Wesley Johnson

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Fit for the pitch?

As the World Cup approaches, many of England's top footballers including David Beckham, Ledley King and Gareth Barry are dogged by injuries. Lisa Salmon looks at their injury problems, and ask sport and exercise experts how, if such super-fit footballers frequently succumb to injuries, do ordinary people avoid injuries that can put them out of action.

As the World Cup approaches, England's chances of victory hinge on its players remaining injury-free at the end of a gruelling domestic season.

The fitness of every member of Fabio Capello's squad is coming under increasing scrutiny in the countdown to South Africa 2010.

There's been David Beckham's ruptured Achilles tendon, Wayne Rooney's ankle and groin problems, and Ledley King's long-running knee injury - to name but a few.

With so many super-fit footballers falling victim to a catalogue of physical problems, what hope of avoiding injury is there for ordinary people who play the odd game of football, go running occasionally or try to keep fit in the gym?

Of course, footballers' bodies are put under far more strain than 'weekend athletes', but these players also are at the peak of physical fitness, and still succumb to injury.

While Rooney, and King - whose knee didn't cause any problems when he scored in England's 3-1 win against Mexico on Monday - look like being fit to play in South Africa, Beckham is definitely out of the running, and Gareth Barry, who has an ankle ligament injury, is doubtful.

However, England's injury woes are not too bad, say the Football Association.

FA spokesman, Andy West, points out that Capello spoke openly about Gareth Barry being the only player who's an injury doubt when he announced the provisional squad.

"Ledley King has an ongoing issue which means he can't train too much, but he's fine - in terms of the World Cup, there's no problems there," stresses West.

"The injuries are fairly light - we've done quite well so far to have so few players unavailable."

That's heartening for England fans to hear - but they might not be as keen to listen to advice about their own well-being when playing football, or enjoying amateur sport and exercise.

Phil Evans, a sports physiotherapist from Loughborough University's Peak Performance Centre, says that for occasional footballers, a complete lack of conditioning could easily result in hamstring, groin or lower limb injuries.

"If you just walk up to a Sunday league match with no conditioning at all, you haven't got the strength or stability that the professionals have, and when you sprint for the ball you're likely to be injured."

There will always, of course, be unavoidable injuries like breaking an ankle in a bad tackle, which no amount of training would prevent.

"But hamstring, groin and muscular injuries can be prevented through conditioning and exercise," warns Evans.

He advises occasional sportspeople to do core stability exercises like pilates or yoga, and stresses: "If they keep that up, the likelihood of injury is massively decreased."

Stretching before and after exercise is often thought to be an important way of preventing injury. However, research into stretching has found mixed results, and some consider it a waste of time.

Evans, however, says stretching is important, although it needs to be the right sort.

Dynamic stretching, where you warm up and stretch muscles at the same time, is useful as it's stretching on-the-go, and is based around the sport you're doing and the injuries you're most likely to get.

The other type of stretching is static, where you bend over and stretch the hamstrings from a fixed position.

"Static stretching is also important," says Evans, "but it's not as essential pre-games.

"It's more for an increase in range of movement for injury safety - for example, if you have very short hamstrings."

He says warming up is important, as is stretching after sport, which will reduce the DOMS effect (delayed onset of muscle soreness), and cooling down.

Sports physiotherapist Nichola Croft, clinical manager of

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the London Sports Medicine Centre, agrees that stretching is important, despite the mixed research views.

"I don't think there's enough evidence to say it's not worth doing," she says, "especially if there's an asymmetry - if you can feel that one side's tighter than the other".

She suggests that people stretch for 20-30 seconds twice on each side before exercising, to lengthen muscles, and do more stretching within the cool down period afterwards too.

Such preparation may help reduce the risk of the more common sporting injuries, which include sprained ankles, recurrent low back pain, anterior cruciate ligament knee injuries, Achilles tendon problems and groin strains.

People who keep fit by running will often suffer "biomechanical niggles", says Croft, including friction on the outside of the knee, sprained ankles, knee cartilage problems and Achilles tendon pain.

But she points out: "Irritation to the Achilles might just come down to inappropriate footwear - not having the right shoes for your foot type."

Another, less common but extremely disabling, injury is an Achilles tendon rupture, which tends to occur in the over-forties age group.

It's the injury that David Beckham suffered in March and which has put him out of action for months, ending his dream of becoming the first England player to appear in four World Cups.

"Usually, Achilles tears or ruptures require a strong contraction of the calf muscle, so often that's in sports like sprinting or tennis."

The best way for 'weekend athletes' to prevent injuries, Croft advises, is by starting to exercise gradually - so initially running for 20 minutes instead of 40 minutes, for example.

"People who haven't exercised for a while need to recognise that they're not going to be at the same level as they were last time," she warns.

Getting some advice may also be a good way to prevent injury - sports physiotherapists will pre-screen people before they take part in events like marathons, so they can assess how an individual's body works, and their strengths and weaknesses.

In addition, some stores that sell running shoes may offer to video a runner's gait to assess which shoes will give appropriate support.

"A lot of it comes down to biomechanics, and choosing an appropriate sport for your body type," says Croft, referring to body's mechanical system - the muscles, bones, tendons and ligaments - which work to produce movement.

"To do that, you may need some good advice."

Part of an occasional sportsman's injury risk stems from the fact that exercise is so easy to take up that many people will just throw themselves into it without any preparation at all.

"Part of the charm of sport and exercise is that you don't require lots of money, and you don't need gym membership, you can just do it.

"But it's about training your body so it can do the appropriate workload, and not expecting it to be able to cope from day one."

It's also important to let your body recover from exercise because, as Croft stresses: "Recovery time is when you're repairing those muscles to build your strength."

She warns that people should be aware that as they age their body changes and isn't as adaptable, and advises 'weekend athletes' that they need a longer warm-up period, and possibly a little cross-training in another sport during the week, to keep their fitness up.

She adds: "If you start to get a niggle and it persists beyond about two weeks, get someone to have a look at it.

"Often people just ignore these niggles, thinking they'll go away, and they can then become something like a muscle tear that you can't ignore and which will cause a lot more of a problem."

AC Milan's David Beckham leaving the pitch after being injured during the Serie A match between AC Milan and Chievo at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy. David Beckham hobbled off with an apparent torn left Achilles' tendon injury in the closing minutes of AC Milan's 1-0 win over Chievo Verona putting his status for the World Cup at risk.

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Busting beauty

Lisa Haynes helps bust the worrying beauty myths you hear about pregnancy and parenthood with our expert advice.

The saying 'mum knows best' doesn't always apply when you're new to parenthood.

With so much conflicting information surrounding pregnancy and babies, it's little wonder new parents - exhausted by sleep deprivation - can feel confused and overwhelmed by which products are best for baby.

Almost nine out of 10 parents (89%) worry about the impact of chemicals in everyday products on their children's health, according to research by the Cosmetic, Toiletry and Perfumery Association (CTPA).

And more than a third (35%) say they would stop using a product immediately if they read a media story questioning a product's safety.

Faye Mino, spokesperson for Bounty Parenting Club, says: "Many expectant mums tell us that they are confused about what they should and shouldn't do when they are pregnant.

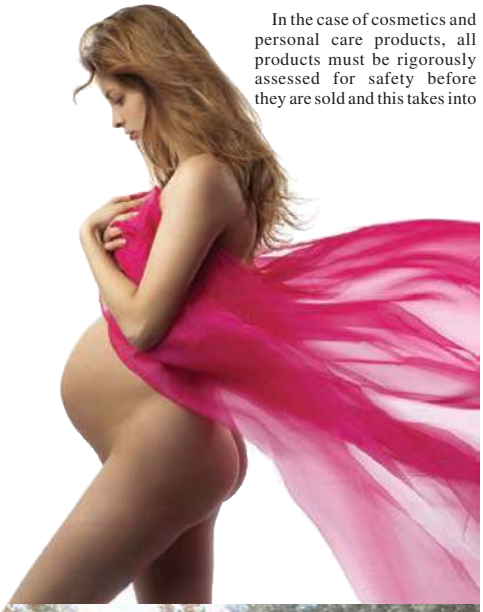
"Likewise, parents are often unsure about which products are safe to use on their babies and what age they can be used from."

With such precious moments at stake with baby-to-be or your new bundle of joy, the last thing you want to be worrying about is what's on your bathroom shelf.

Here, we bust the five top cosmetics myths that cause parents concern.

:: Myth: Exposure to chemicals in cosmetics during pregnancy can harm an unborn child

This is a big concern for one in six expectant mums, but you can continue to enjoy your favourite products during pregnancy stress-free.



In the case of cosmetics and personal care products, all products must be rigorously assessed for safety before they are sold and this takes into

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myths for mums

account use by women during pregnancy, according to the CTPA.

"Choosing for personal choice or lifestyle should be the reason you buy and use a beauty product," advises Dr Emma Meredith, CTPA's head of science and technical services.

"They are all safe, whether you're an expectant mum or using them on your child."

:: Myth: Colouring your hair and self-tanning should be avoided when pregnant

Around one in three women becomes more aware of the chemicals in their everyday products when they get pregnant.

But colouring your hair or using self-tanners is perfectly safe when you are expecting or breastfeeding.

Dr Meredith says: "The amount of product absorbed that is applied topically is very minimal, which is why most medicines are oral or injectable."

Make sure you carry out the skin sensitivity test 48 hours before colouring your hair.

There is no evidence to suggest using cosmetics makes breast milk unsafe but, if self-tanning, avoid the breast area as it won't taste or smell nice for your baby.

:: Myth: You should only use natural or organic products on babies' skin

More than half of those polled by the CTPA believe 'natural' ingredients are better for children, and more than a third (36%) feel safer with 'organic'.

But the body does not differentiate between things that are natural or synthetic, according to the CTPA.

"There's a perception that natural and organic products are safer. They aren't," Dr Meredith explains.

"All ingredients have gone through exactly the same review and tests to ensure the product is safe."

There is an enhanced safety assessment that's legally required for all products intended for children under the age of three. Baby-targeted products are specially formulated using milder cleansers, low levels of fragrance and carefully controlled pH.

:: Myth: Parabens can be harmful to children

Parabens have received a bad press recently prompting many beauty companies to use alternatives because of the negativity surrounding them, which includes links to cancer.

In fact, parabens are ideal preservatives that keep products free from bacteria, moulds and fungi that might otherwise cause real harm to the user.

"There are a list of preservatives that has been approved for safe use, and parabens is one of them," Dr Meredith confirms.

They are non-toxic to human cells, and that includes babies and children.

:: Myth: Sun-block on children's skin can cause Vitamin D deficiency

There are mixed messages about sunscreens and vitamin D. Vitamin D is essential for good health, particularly in maintaining healthy bones - but excessive sun exposure can cause damage too so there needs to be a balance, according to the CTPA.

The British Skin Foundation recommends children use a minimum SPF30 product with UVA protection.

Dr Meredith advises: "It's not 100% achievable or practical to keep small babies out of the sun entirely but it is important to keep them protected and in the shade as much as possible.

"Use t-shirts, hats and all-in-one swimming suits to cut down on their sun exposure."

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Wine Show at the International Algarve Fair

Each year huge efforts are made to find and enlist new recruits to showcase some of Portugal's most outstanding, well-known and little known wines; this year, some of the region's leading producers and distributors will be offering samples of their top-choices.

From small family-run businesses to some of the region's biggest names, everyone who is anyone will be there. Amongst others, the Wine Show will feature local producers Única – Adega Cooperative de Lagoa, who will be flying the flag for regional wines.

Established in 1944 the Adega Cooperativa de Lagoa (www.adegalagoa.com) was the first in the country to function with its current characteristics. Its products are without doubt amongst the Algarve's most acclaimed, as well as being amongst the most symbolic in Portugal.

Several awards were achieved during the Wine Masters Challenger 2008, proving the quality of Única's products.

More recently Quinta da Penina (Alvor), which produces the renowned Foral wine, will also be participating in the Wine Show. Just last week Quinta da Penina (www.vinhosportimao.com) was awarded a Gold Medal in the international Wine Masters Challenge 2010 for its Foral de Portimão Reserva 2008. Of 4,497 wines, 258 medals were awarded by a panel of judges, the Foral de Portimão Reserva being amongst the most highly acclaimed.

Quinta dos Vales (Estômbar), a more recent arrival in the Algarve, will be returning to the Wine Show after last year's successful participation. Now widely recognised for their up-and-coming wines as well as for their colourful, oversized sculptures, Quinta dos Vales (www.quintadosvales.eu) produces 'powerful wines of substantial colour', in red, white and rosé. Their unique maturing process enhances "some of the otherwise undiscovered characteristics you find in superior wines" combining well established international varieties which have proven their adaptation to the regional climate and soils, with mainly Portuguese varieties.

Owned by sculptor Karl Heinz Stock, Quinta dos Vales offers a sophisticated combination of wine and art that is quietly stirring growing interest from far and wide.

Smaller producers such as Quinta João Clara (Vale de Lousas, Alcantarilha), Quinta da Vinha (Silves), and Quinta dos Lopes (Barão São João) will also be participating.

Quinta João Clara was established in 1975, when João Clara purchased the property and planted the first vines. It produced its marketed wine (João Clara Tinto – Vinho Regional do Algarve) in 2006, the completion of a young producers dream. Currently run by Edite Alves, Quinta João Clara is dedicated to producing wines of fine quality.

Family-run Quinta da Vinha, which belongs to the Cabrita family, produces the trademark red and rosé 'Vinho Cabrita'. The farm was initiated in 1977 by fruit seller José André, who planted the land with traditional Algarve vines such as Crato, Monteudo, Negra Mole and Castelão, to produce his 'homemade' wines. In 2000 his son, José Manuel Cabrita, took over and further explored the huge potential Quinta da Vinha offered. A thorough transformation took place in 2000 and 2001, including replanting the land with other national varieties to enhance the Algarvean potential, like Touriga nacional, Trincadeira and Aragonês. And in 2007 the current red and rosé Vinho Cabrita was born, a wine with a daring, fresh image, aimed at young, curious consumers who recognize quality wine at accessible prices.

Quinta dos Lopes will be displaying their selection of choice wines, from across the region as well as local produce from the Western Algarve, as will Monte da Casteleja (Sargaçal, Lagos – www.montedacasteleja.com).

Now owned by winegrower Guillaume Leroux, Monte da Casteleja was originally purchased by Guillaume's Sagres-born grandfather, a highly-respected individual in the fishing industry, in 1952.

First introduced to the "magic of wines" by his French father, over the decades Guillaume realised the great potential of Portuguese wines, becoming passionate about wine after discovering the richness and complexity of the world of wine during his travels and studies.

With the mission of producing a "high quality regional wine", since 1998 Guillaume has built on Monte da Casteleja to achieve his objective.

Despite Monte da Casteleja's wines now being widely applauded, they received further acclamation of quality this year when globally respected wine journalist Sarah Ahmed (aka. 'The Wine Detective') elected its 'Maria Selection Tinto 2007' (red) as one of the '50 Great Portuguese Wines, 2010'.

She described Monte da Casteleja's 'Maria Selection Tinto 2007' as "An attractive floral nose and palate with wild, bright cherry and pomegranate, and subtle spice underscored by pithy tannins. Put me in mind of Conceito's Bastardo from the Douro with its combination of intensity and delicacy."

The Algarve wine society enjoys a tasty Bairrada evening

On Friday, May 28, the Algarve Wine Society, in cooperation with the "Rota da Bairrada" and its Director Jorge Sampaio, offered a unique evening to 83 members and their guests.

Reto and Medeleine Weber with Manfred Matysik enjoying themselves

A goodly number of Wine Society members had visited the Bairrada wine producing region in May a year ago. We were introduced to some sensational wines during our visit, but perhaps the biggest and best surprise was the quality and variety of the sparkling wines being produced. We immediately invited Jorge to bring Bairrada down to us in the Algarve, and, after a year of planning, he did just that.

Jorge provided an ample supply of the sparkling wines of 11 of Bairrada's best producers (Luis Pato, Aliança, Quinta do Ortigão, Caves São João, Campolargo, Caves São Domingos, Quinta do Baixo, Quinta da Mata Fidalga, Casa do Canto, Caves Primavera, Quinta do Encontro). But in addition he also brought 10 suckling pigs (the region's most favourite dish), which were roasted in the wood fired ovens of The Bairrada Restaurant in Tavira.

The evening began on the restaurant's terrace, where we had canapés and started our in depth "horizontal" tasting with sparkling rosé wines. After an hour of conviviality we moved inside to eat *cabidela* and then *leitão*, all accompanied by a variety of sparkling red wines. Finally, with a typical Bairrada sweet, we tasted a number of different sparkling white wines.

While the crowd were enjoying their coffees and a wonderful aguardente *vínica velhíssima* from São Domingos, Jorge gave us a final treat from Bairrada, as a group of Fadistas entertained us musically. As a parting momento every participant left with a gift bottle of wine. All in all it had been a unique and memorable experience.

The Algarve Wine Society concludes its spring calendar of events with its traditional summer party on Sunday, June 27, following which there will be a summer break. Activities will resume on September 15 with an Indian curry lunch and a tasting of various wines particularly suited to this cuisine.

Membership in The Algarve Wine Society is at its upper limit, and there is a waiting list, but if you would like further information please contact the Society's Secretary, Larry Hampton: hampton@mail.telepac.pt

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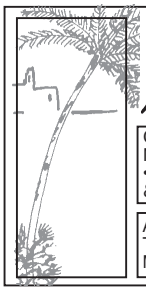

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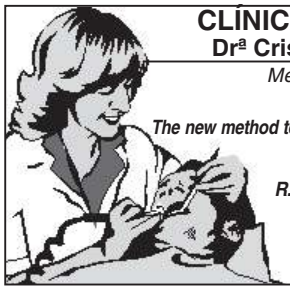

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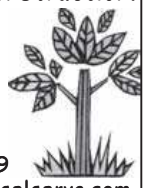

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Announcements

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CASA - IS a local social group established over 20 years ago. A friendly group who have a monthly newsletter and at least one activity per month, usually dinners at local venues. We have and annual trip to Spain or within Portugal, plus other activities. Open o everyone. For more information and a sample newsletter give Mary a call on 282 357 275.

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Thursdays 7.30pm-Mikki F Studio, Algoz. Cost is 20 euros per month or 6.50 euros per week. There is no joining fee. You can contact me on 939536347 or e mail wendyweightwise@yahoo.com for more details.

VILLAGE INN Restaurant, casual singles evening - June 9th. For more details: 282 412 036 or 914 878 927.

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WANTED: THE donkey sanctuary needs your unwanted furniture, clothes, books and bric-a-brac for our charity shops in Lagoa and Monte Carvoeiro, all proceeds to aid donkeys in distress. We will collect larger items. Call Nan Richardson962 633 811, for details of our work for animal welfare. Please help.

TAVIRA TREASURE Charity Shop. Tavira Christian Centre, Av. Mateus Teixeira de Azevedo, 61A (Opposite Skippers Bar). Come and browse, Come and bring clothing, Bric-a-Brac, Books. Open Wednesdays, 2.30–4.30 and Saturdays 10.30–12.30. Phone 917872559/913617991 for further details. Volunteers needed so we can open more frequently.

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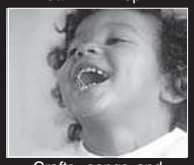

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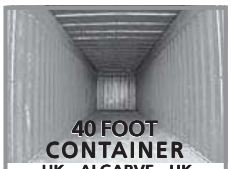

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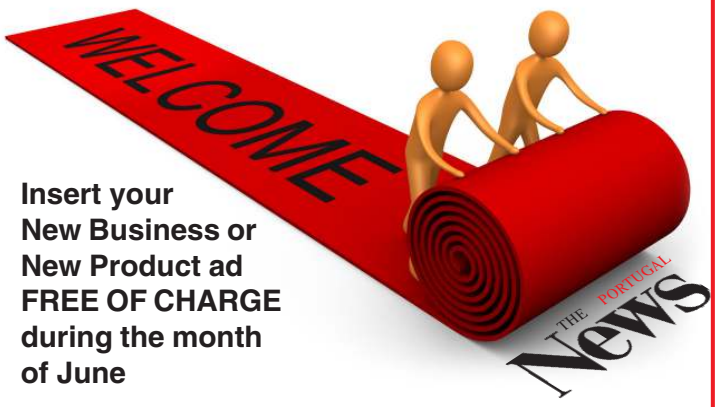

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Portugal step up a notch

Tommy Broad

Cristiano Ronaldo (R) fights for the ball with Cameroon´s Georges Mandjeck during their friendly match in preparation for the World Cup 2010 in South Africa at the Covilha Sports Complex on June 1st. (Photo: Lusa / Estela Silva)

Portugal this week showed great improvement in their second preparation match, against Cameroon, compared to their uninspiring match against Cape Verde the previous week, having won 3-1. The national team's final preparation match, before their World Cup inaugural game against Ivory Coast on June 15th, will take place in South Africa on June 8th against Mozambique.

Portugal's exhibition against Cameroon on Tuesday night was an ideal opportunity for the national squad to prepare for their fixture against Ivory Coast on June 15th, as both teams share very similar attributes.

The speed of the Cameroon players was not an issue for Portugal though as the backline remained strong, even without two of their key players, Pepe and Ricardo Carvalho, who did not play as they continue to recover from their injuries.

Cameroon were very aggressive from the start, with the team's captain and recent Champions League winner Samuel Eto'o being given two yellow cards in the first half, putting Portugal at a numerical advantage.

Raul Meireles demonstrated why he should be in the starting eleven with two good goals, the first being a great shot from inside the box and the second was slightly fortunate as an intended cross managed to chip over the keeper's head from an obtuse angle and find the back of the net.

Being one player down, Cameroon still managed to pull one goal back with a fantastic header, although it might not have happened had Bruno Alves still been on the pitch as he is very strong in aerial battles.

Nani scored Portugal's third and last goal with a very composed chip over the keeper, a deserved result after a good performance, taking advantage of his characteristic speed. Cristiano Ronaldo has not yet been able to display his skills shown at club level; many fans being unhappy with his performances for his nation.

However, Carlos Queiroz was very happy with the final result, "Yes, we played well and finalised. We had half the shots than with Cape Verde and yet scored three goals. We passed the ball well and were always looking for the goal" he said at the post match interview.

Portugal now have one more preparation match before the 2010 South Africa World Cup begins, against Mozambique on June 8th.

Maiden win for Sebastian Ogier at Portugal Rally

A virtuoso display of speed, courage and determination earned Sebastian Ogier double honours at last weekend's Rally de Portugal. He took a well-deserved maiden victory over Sebastien Loeb, with Dani Sordo in third.

Sebastian Ogier had been the class of the field during event, taking the lead on the fourth stage of the rally and not looking back. He maintained his lead despite running first on the road for the second and third days, and resisted pressure from Sebastien Loeb, chasing hard behind him. Although the reigning champion managed to close the gap, he was unable to get close enough to claim the lead or put Ogier under enough pressure to force a mistake. Ogier eventually finished 7.9 seconds ahead of Loeb to claim a well-earned and well-deserved first win.

Sebastian Ogier's maiden World Rally Championship (WRC) victory in the Algarve after just two years in the top tier of rallying was followed up with the prestigious Abu Dhabi Spirit of the Rally Award to complete a remarkable weekend for the Frenchman.

The 'Spirit of the Rally' award, created by Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority (ADTA), is presented at each WRC round to mark an outstanding feat of leadership, integrity, respect or teamwork. Ogier's impressive transition through rallying's grass roots levels to the very pinnacle of the sport and now a debut WRC win, was judged to have demonstrated an outstanding work ethic and natural skill.

"This has been a perfect weekend. It was a big surprise and we did something special to get this award from ADTA too," commented Ogier. "Our first victory against six times World Champion Sebastian Loeb was unexpected, but I am now confident for the rest of the Championship and look forward to the next rally."

Ogier's Junior World Rally Championship (J-WRC) win in his debut season in that class earned him his first 'Spirit of the Rally' Award in 2008. It is an achievement that will be keenly watched by Abu Dhabi's Junior drivers as they build on their experience in the formative Fiesta SportTrophy International competition.

"Grass roots programmes are essential to the long-term growth and development of any sport, and Ogier's impressive WRC win has demonstrated this to great effect," said Ahmed Hussein, Deputy Director General, ADTA.

The S-WRC for Super2000 cars was effectively decided at the end of the second day, as the gaps between the runners meant that there was nothing to gain and everything to lose by pushing hard. Jari Ketoma maintained his lead throughout the final day, negotiating his way around the rocks and stones thrown up by preceding cars, to claim the category victory by a margin of more than three minutes over Xevi Pons, with Michal Kosciuszko in third.

The J-WRC class was another that saw large gaps and drivers conserving their car and positions throughout the last day. By the end of the event, it was Kevin Abbring who claimed the spoils, almost six minutes ahead of Karl Kruuda with Aaron Burkart third.

Leading Portuguese driver was Armindo Araujo, who avoided any repeat of the problems which befell him on the second day, to claim 14th overall and first of the Group N drivers. Behind him, in 15th, was Bernardo Sousa, driving the FIAT Punto S2000 and claiming maximum points for the Portuguese championship.

Mourinho makes Galacticos move

After his success in the Premiership League for Chelsea and his most recent treble triumph in Italian football for Inter Milan (UEFA Champions League, Serie A, and the Italian Cup), Portuguese manager José Mourinho now hopes to shine in La Liga with Real Madrid, in a contract worth €40 million over the next four years.

Mourinho's nine and a half year old career has earned him seventeen major trophies in three countries, with two Champions League trophies under his belt. His success in football is paramount and therefore a move to Real was the next obvious step for the oh so confident 'Special One', making him Real's ninth coach in six years.

Speaking of his move to Real Madrid during his inaugural press conference as the Galacticos' coach, Mourinho said "I am José Mourinho and I don't change. My attraction to Real Madrid is due to its history, its frustrations in recent years and its expectations to win. It's a unique club and I believe that not to coach Real leaves a void in a coach's career" adding "I have a lot of confidence in my players; I have the hope that my new players have confidence in me."

Mourinho terminated his contract with Inter one year before it expired and it has been reported the Italian club has been paid €8 million in compensation.

Mourinho's four season contract with Real Madrid is worth an estimated €40 million, €10 million per season.

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